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Niagara NEWS

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Boys of summer

At left, Todd Bartok, 23, of Welland, a second-year student in the Recreational and Leisure Services program, and Steven Terrington, 14, of Welland, practice their softball skills at the diamond behind the Mackenzie building on April 12.
Photo by Lee Whitehead

Tuition increases

College's tuition increase affects all students

By SEAN COFFEY
Staff Writer

Tuition is on the rise.

All programs except the Dental Hygiene and post-graduate programs will see an increase of 10 per cent in their tuitions next year, said Hans van der Slagt, vice-president, administration.

"The full amount of the tuition fee increase will be reinvested back into programs and services for students," said van der Slagt to the President's Advisory Forum on March 24.

The Dental Hygiene program's tuition fees will be increased by 20 per cent because of the high cost of delivering the program to the students.

The post-graduate programs' tuition increase will be based on Ministry of Education and Training guidelines. However, there will be no extra service fees for these programs.

Van der Slagt said there are some uncertainties and long-term issues the college will have to face, such as changes to the Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP), which affect some students' ability to receive funding.

The problem of high student debt is another concern, he said.

"We, the college, individually and collectively, are encouraging the provincial government to, in turn, put pressure on the federal government to harmonize the student loan system," said van der Slagt.

At a later interview, van der Slagt said the Committee of Presidents (which comprises community college presidents) meets regularly with senior ministry officials, including the deputy minister of education, to discuss what is happening within the college community.

Van der Slagt said part of that dialogue "is to make sure the deputy minister is aware of our students and their financial situation."

"Certainly default rates on OSAP are a constant source of discussion," he said, adding increasing tuition fees tie directly into that because this is what OSAP and other student loan debts are built on.

3 false fire alarms at residence

By SHARILYN JOHNSON
Staff Writer

The Niagara College Residence experienced an unusual number of false fire alarms the first week of April.

Between April 3 and April 7, the fire alarms went off three times. Two of those were in the late morning hours and one was at 3 a.m.

After three false alarms in five days, some residents were annoyed at the inconvenience.

"It's ridiculous. We should not be having this many," says third-floor resident Mandy Cornell, 19, of the Legal Assistant program.

Students are required to evacuate the building when the alarm goes off and each floor's resident advisers knock on students' doors to make sure they're awake. The residents wait outside until the building has been inspected by the Welland Fire Department before being allowed back in.

Jeff Tremblay, 25, the assistant general manager of the residence, says the building's alarms can be affected by water and are set off by residents having water fights. "That's probably what happened," he says.

Sherry Watson, 25, a second-year Dental Hygiene student, says, "If they're accidental, they need to get it all straightened out. If it's on purpose and people are pulling it, then they're being immature and should get in a lot of trouble for it."

Tremblay says the alarm was pulled once, at 3 a.m. on April 4. Three male visitors were caught on a security camera. "They will be charged," he says. "It's a federal offence."

He says the problem wasn't an error in the system, as some residents had speculated. "The system is 100 per cent," he says. "No service was required."

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Destination Disney

By DAVID OLSEN
Staff Writer

Five days after graduation they're going to Disney World.

Jennifer Alexander, 19, of Niagara Falls, Robert Stewart, 21, of St. Catharines and Aaron Sickle, 20, of St. George, Ont., all graduates of the two-year Culinary Skills program at Niagara College's Maid of the Mist campus, have been hired by Walt Disney World, in Orlando, Fla.

They will be working at the Canadian Pavilion at Epcot Centre.

The students have a one-year contract to work as food and beverage hosts and hostesses in the Canadian Pavilion's restaurant.

"We have to wear brown cotton pants and a flannel lumberjack shirt," says Stewart. "It's not going to be very comfortable in 130 degree weather. It's better than wearing a Mountie's uniform."

The students are considered "cast members" and will be doing a number of jobs, such as some food preparation and waiting and busing tables.

Asked if they are excited to work for Disney, Stewart says, "Oh, just a little bit. We graduate five days before we leave."

The following programs will be located at the new Glendale campus starting in September:

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Hampton looking for grassroots input

'phoney tax scheme' —Hampton

By ELISABETH IRWIN
Staff Writer

Grassroots input wanted!

Howard Hampton, leader of Ontario's New Democratic Party (NDP), was in St. Catharines on April 2 looking for input at the grassroots level, which will result in policy making leading up to the next provincial election.

Hampton spoke to a standing room only crowd of about 100 at West Park Secondary School.

Asked what he would do if he were premier tomorrow, he replied, "I would reverse his (Premier Mike Harris) phony tax scheme because that's what it is. I would put the $5 billion back into health care, education, back into the communities."

Hampton is referring to the $5 billion a year needed to finance the provincial tax scheme. He says by the year 2001, the scheme will cost $6 billion a year to finance.

"The destruction that's happening in health care — the destruction that's happening in education, the axe that we're now going to take to our communities — is it worth it just to finance a tax scheme that in the final analysis only benefits people who are well off?" Hampton asked the crowd.

Hampton, 45, was elected MPP for Rainy River in 1987. During Bob Rae's tenure as premier, Hampton was Ontario's first NDP attorney general. He served as Minister of Natural Resources from 1990 to 1993. He became leader of the NDP in 1996, and is the critic for Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs.

Prior to serving as an MPP, he was a lawyer with the Canadian Labour Congress and in private practice in Fort Frances. He has a law degree from the University of Ottawa, a bachelor of education degree from the University of Toronto, and a bachelor of arts degree from Dartmouth College in New Hampshire.

HOWARD HAMPTON

"I've been a teacher, I've been a lawyer and I was elected into the legislature. In terms of public esteem, I've sort of worked my way down," says Hampton.

He says there is no end to American consultants coming into Queen's Park to advise Harris, such as paid political help from the United States where health care and large chunks of education are privatized.

"Why would we want to adopt a health care system where we pay more money and get less health care? We have good models right here in Canada."

Hampton is referring to Saskatchewan's publicly funded, publicly administered and community-delivered health care plan where 90 per cent of home care is covered.

He says about 10 community schools in the Niagara Region will be closing, and adult education programs will be eliminated.

Hampton taught school in downtown Toronto for four years and spent some time teaching in rural communities where many students had to be bussed 40 to 50 miles every day. He taught law at the community college level on a part-time basis and says, "Unlike Mike Harris, I have a permanent teaching contract."

Liberal leader promises to freeze tuition

By SEAN COFFEY
Staff Writer

Broken promises, student debt and education reform topped the forum on education's agenda held April 2 in St. Catharines.

Ontario Liberal Leader Dalton McGuinty, MPP for Ottawa South, and Liberal MPP for St. Catharines Jim Bradley spoke and answered questions at the forum held at Governor Simcoe Secondary School, on Glenview Avenue.

About 400 people attended. Most were teachers from St. Catharines and the surrounding area. The meeting was held to encourage those with concerns about Ontario's education system to voice them. Liberal promises of a brighter future under McGuinty's leadership and pointed assaults on Mike Harris's Tory government.

McGuinty began by attacking the Harris government's education reform policy.

"We have a government before us which does not understand the value of education," said McGuinty, adding governments should not have to spend "tremendous amounts" of money to deliver quality education.

McGuinty spoke of his "strong belief" in junior kindergarten. He used the example of the Toronto Chamber of Commerce, which, he said, approached Harris asking for more junior-kindergarten program funding.

He said they (the business community) recognize the need for such a program. He pointed to studies showing children who attend junior kindergarten are more likely to succeed later in their studies.

"They made the connection," said McGuinty.

Junior kindergarten was not the only issue discussed.

Bradley said the new formula, to set the number of vice-principals and administrators within the system, is a "real concern" to him.

People outside the school system (meaning those who do not have children in the system) may fail to recognize the impact of removing the vice-principals and administrators, he said.

Bradley then talked about the Conservative's attacks on school board trustees in the province. He said the Conservatives have labeled the trustees as "money grubbing, wild-spending people."

One teacher in the audience said, "The problem with education today is when 80 politicians think they know more than 126,000 teachers."

Another member of the audience said she was confused about the issues and didn't understand them, especially those surrounding Bill 160.

McGuinty responded that "the government is purposely trying to confuse us."

He said if you're confused, go directly to those involved — the teachers. "Go into the classroom and talk to the teachers, count the students and count the textbooks. The premier has deliberately set out to undermine public education," said the Liberal leader.

The topic of special needs students arose during the evening as well.

McGuinty said this particular issue goes beyond education in that it's a moral issue for him.

"I don't want to live in a province where a tax cut is of more value than the education of a student with special learning needs."

McGuinty lashed out at Harris's campaign promises by pointing out he'd promised he would "not close a single hospital" nor would he take any money from education.

"This government believes that democracy stops at the ballot box," said McGuinty, adding the Conservatives believe "once you're in, that's it. You have a mandate and you must follow it."

Bradley said too much of taxpayers' money is going towards "political propaganda" to prove what the Conservative government is doing is in the best interest of the province.

McGuinty slammed Harris's proposed legislation that would force governments to listen. He said this is coming from a government which has made it clear it doesn't listen.

"There is only one way to make a government listen — to kick this one out."

McGuinty expressed his concerns about post-secondary education. He described universities as "academic anorexics," in reference to their lack of provincial funding and support.

Asked if the problem of the rise in student debt would be a concern to his government if he were elected, he said, "That's a major concern . . . the product here is post-secondary education. We have students graduating with average debt loads of $25,000. I think what I want the public to understand is that every time somebody doesn't pursue post-secondary studies, that's a loss to the rest of us.

"If you can cut it, (if) you've got the ability to go on to college or university, then you've got to do it."

McGuinty said, "The first thing I have committed to is freezing tuition — no more increases. Secondly, we've got to find a better way to help students fund their education through better student assistance."

He said one option is income-contingent loan repayment based on the student's income after graduation.

"We've got to stand up for public education," said McGuinty.

Calling on Canada's Captain Unity

By ELISABETH IRWIN
Staff Writer

Jean Charest has left the building — the Parliament Buildings in Ottawa, that is — to pursue his true calling as Canada's Captain Unity.

Charest's switch to the Liberal side is nothing more than changing the color of his tie from blue to red. His delay in agreeing to become the Liberal leader of Quebec (yes, I said agreeing to become) was a well staged play and the actors were well-rehearsed.

First of all, Charest would not even consider leaving federal politics unless his chances of becoming prime minister were nil, and let's face it, they were. The federal Tories made somewhat of a comeback in the last election, but not enough to be taken seriously.

Second, the Quebec players had to be coaxed into position. That position was that they drop out of the race. Charest had to have a guarantee of winning. With only one player running, that's a done deal. The dropouts probably have a Senate seat waiting for them in the future.

Third, I'd go as far as suggest that Charest is confident (has been guaranteed) that the Liberals will win the provincial election. I'd love to know how many political favors were called in on this one.

It doesn't take a rocket scientist to see the people of Quebec are sicker of Premier Lucien Bouchard and talk of another referendum than we are. With ice storms, floods and property damage beyond repair, the last thing the people of Quebec are worrying about is whether their politicians want the province to separate or not.

I think Charest made a wise choice. This might be his only chance to secure a favorable position in the history books.

Quality education lacking in school

By SEAN COFFEY
Staff Writer

Education reform is a must.

The quality of education in Ontario is seriously in jeopardy.

Last fall we saw a lot of criticism of Mike Harris's Bill 160 and education reform.

Through the eyes of a fairly recent graduate of the Ontario school system, it seems the teachers think they are providing the best education they can. Well, I am sorry to burst your bubble, people, but I beg to differ on this issue.

Allow me to share my experiences in this area.

I enrolled in Niagara College's Journalism-Print program. Obviously this meant I would have to take courses dealing with grammar. What I discovered in these courses is that I barely knew how to properly structure a sentence — something I should have learned long before I graduated from high school.

Thus I was not surprised to find a large portion of my classmates were in the same predicament. It doesn't stop there, however. I know third-year university students who can't spell, let alone write a sentence properly.

After a lot of hard work with an excellent teacher I have managed to bring myself up to speed.

However, I can't help feeling cheated. My parents paid thousands of dollars in taxes to pay for my public education, which they believed to be the best in the world.

I don't know exactly where to lay the blame. I still think highly of many of my former high school teachers, yet at the same time I am fully behind Harris's policy on education reform. After all, a nation's success is largely based on its quality of education.

Partnership brings 'more opportunities'

By SEAN COFFEY
Staff Writer

A Niagara College partnership agreement will bring "more opportunities" for college students here.

The Board of Governors has approved a three-year partnership agreement with Conestoga College in Kitchener.

The agreement was presented to the board by Bonnie Rose, vice-president, academic, during the board meeting held at the Foster Wheeler building in Niagara-on-the-Lake on April 9.

Rose said the college will benefit from the partnership.

"By increasing the flexibility of our programming we will become a healthier college."

Describing how the partnership works, Rose said someone who has wanted to take a program offered only at Conestoga can take the program at Niagara.

A student taking a program offered by Conestoga through Niagara will pay tuition at Niagara and graduate from Niagara as well. It has not been decided yet, but on some diplomas there may be the names of both colleges, she said.

Tuition for students taking programs through this partnership will not be affected.

"The big difference it makes in cost is students may not have to travel so far," said Rose.

In the partnership agreement, it states both colleges agree that by working together they can offer more to their students:

- It will raise the flexibility for delivering programs as well as offer a broader range of programming.
- Programs will be more sensitive to the changing needs of the job market.
- The cost of developing programs will be cut.
- It will allow students to access their educational needs better, for they can take the programming they want from another college and stay close to home at the same time.

The partnership will allow for the colleges to share existing and future curriculum, as well as offer a chance for the joint development of future programs.

Some market-driven programs will be offered on a rotation basis between the colleges. As well, for specialty programs there may be a system whereby a student could begin with an introductory level at one school and then finish at the other school.

The colleges will also share learning and delivery resources.

As part of the terms of the agreement, the colleges will put in place guidelines to control the quality of programming, and programs and services will be reviewed regularly.

'The ministry is extremely supportive,' — Bonnie Rose

Niagara will also pursue partnerships with other colleges, said Rose, adding, "The ministry (Ministry of Education and Training) is extremely supportive of this kind of sharing of programs between colleges."

Niagara College President Dan Patterson said the Board of Governors has been encouraging Niagara to pursue these partnerships through their "strategic directions."

"In a period of diminishing resources the way to go is to work in partnerships with other organizations to leverage and to arrange cost-sharing arrangements that build on each other's strengths.

"We believe that partnerships really are a way of life for the college."

He pointed to other examples of partnerships in the public sector with the Niagara Regional Police and in the private sector with General Motors of Canada, both of which are helping the college to better manage its resources.

"Ultimately our goal is to provide more opportunities and more resources to our students in support of their education."

Niagara being forced to streamline services

By SEAN COFFEY
Staff Writer

Less money from the province is forcing Niagara College to streamline its services.

Niagara is searching for more efficient ways of providing services and quality education, said Hans van der Slagt, vice-president, administration.

"The most important challenge is for us to continue to serve students well and to provide them with quality programming, quality services and quality resources . . . in the face of the fact that the province doesn't seem to be inclined to increase our budget allowance," said van der Slagt, 55, of St. Catharines.

For the last eight years the province has not increased this "fixed amount," but what has happened is the colleges have grown, in Niagara's case by almost 50 per cent, he said.

The college's budget outline has been "flatlined" for the past eight years. The hardest blow came two years ago with a 15 per cent decrease in funding, he said.

The term "flatlining" is used within the college system to represent a situation in which the total amount of money coming into the college is not being increased.

The result was an increase in tuition fees, which helped to offset the lack of funding in some ways, said van der Slagt.

Van der Slagt said, to some extent, the college needs to develop more programming which is entirely self-funded. A good example of this, he says, is the new screenwriting program.

"We've seen good growth in a lot of areas that don't rely on government funding, so as we look ahead, we want to grow more in those areas."

The funding from the province comes to the college system in a "fixed amount," which is then divided up with a portion given to each college based on the college's share of the total student population across Ontario, said van der Slagt.

What was a good grant eight years ago is no longer the case, he said, adding the college still has the same amount but it has more students to "feed" from that amount.

The college has managed to work with this money despite the changing needs, said van der Slagt.

This shows through larger class sizes and larger section sizes.

The lack of funding has forced the college to look to the community to try to generate more funding.

"We've always had really strong ties with the community — that's what colleges are all about," said van der Slagt.

Students to 'have more of a say' in fee increases

Fee Protocol Committee will decide on fees

By SEAN COFFEY
Staff Writer

Niagara College students may soon "have more of a say" when it comes to fee increases.

Don Woodruff, president of the Student Administrative Council (SAC), and Martha Casson, vice-president, enterprise and service development, presented the long-term fee protocol to the Niagara College Board of Governors on April 9.

"The students are the ones who provide the business for Niagara College . . . they should have more say," said Woodruff, 23, of Niagara-on-the-Lake.

The protocol includes the setting up of a Fee Protocol Committee, made up of four student representatives and three representatives from the college administration.

"With having four students on (the committee) we will have a big strong voice saying yay or nay for the students," said Woodruff.

The committee will decide on "non-tuition non-mandatory fees," he said.

If SAC has a proposal they will go to the Fee Protocol Committee, and it will be up to them to decide if it can be done or not, before going to the board for final approval, he said.

The idea is not new, said Woodruff.

'it's here so the students can give input,' — Don Woodruff

The college had to have fee protocols before, but they were always temporary, now there is a long-term process where the people may change but the structure will always be the same, he said.

There are "non-tuition mandatory fees" as well, said Woodruff, adding, in the past, students have had no say in these.

Students will continue not to have a say in these, but they will have some input, in being able to make suggestions, said Woodruff.

"It's not actually there for the students to say no we don't want to pay more, it's there so the students can give input and say how they can improve their college."

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Special needs offers special rewards

He says he chose his program because of an interest in special needs.

Twenty-year-old Keith Levere, of Welland, a student in his second year of the Educational Resource and Special Needs (ERSN) program, says he chose it because he has always been interested in the special needs field.

"My family had taken in children with special needs and with varying abilities my whole life."

For the first and second semesters of the ERSN program, Levere says the program required students to do 25 hours of volunteer work.

Levere says he volunteered with Big Brothers and helped children at risk. "I'd help children that dropped out or didn't have a great life."

Working with the District School Board of Niagara as a supply educational assistant, Levere says his hours vary from week to week as well as do the schools for which he works.

"I help with behavior modification, toiletting, feeding and personal care. I'm also in constant contact with parents and work hand-in-hand with the staff."

'At the end of the day you know you've helped someone. It's a boost of energy.' — Keith Levere

Levere says he enjoys working with younger children because "it's fascinating to see them master a skill."

When Levere is finished the ERSN program he says he wants to become a permanent educational assistant, then go to university to become a special needs teacher.

Levere says working as a supply educational assistant is exciting.

"At the end of the day you know you've helped someone. It's a boost of energy. There's never a day I'm tired when I go home."

During his spare time Levere says he enjoys being a boy scout and volunteering for the city with the recreation and leisure program.

Thirty years from now Levere says he'd like to be teaching in a special needs area.

The advice Levere says he'd give to anyone interested in the ERSN program is to "be a team player and have a lot of tolerance.

"Be willing to go out and do things, be on time and always be there."

'Personal gratification'

She says she'd always wanted to work in the special needs field.

Amie Schertzer, 21, of St. Catharines, a student in the second year of the Educational Resource and Special Needs (ERSN) program, is working 25 to 30 hours a week at the Bethesda Community Group Home in St. Catharines.

"I help with behavior modification, personal care as well as plan outings."

Schertzer says she became interested in her program because she's always wanted to work in the field. "As a young child my best friend was intellectually disabled."

When Schertzer graduates she'd like to pursue a career working with adults, "but in a day program," she says, adding she prefers working with adults because she can relate more to them.

"They're more independent. You can focus more on quality of life rather than personal care."

She says "personal gratification" is the feeling she gets from helping people.

"I know I'm helping make a big difference in someone's life."

In her spare time, Schertzer says she enjoys being outdoors and being physically fit and enjoys water skiing, biking and rock climbing.

Schertzer says 30 years from now she can see herself in a position of management or supervising a team of support professionals.

The advice she'd give to anyone interested in the ERSN program is to "network."

"Take advantage of your co-op opportunities and really get involved."

All stories by Sonya Dragan

Opportunity for 'diversity'

Gutowski says she chose her program because she's a 'people person.'

She says she chose her program because she's a "people person."

Thorold native Dawn Gutowski, 20, a student in her second year of the Educational Resources and Special Needs (ERSN) program, works 25 to 30 hours a week with mentally disabled senior adults at Mainstream in St. Catharines.

"I help with personal care and hygiene, support and assist in daily activities as well as plan and coordinate outings."

Gutowski says she chose the ERSN program because she's a "people person. I enjoy supporting others and advocating for people's rights."

When Gutowski is finished, she says she'd like to focus on getting a job like the one she has now.

"I want to concentrate on keeping my options open and continue my education and study things in other related fields."

Gutowski says there's no particular age group of people she prefers working with.

"I like diversity."

"Personal satisfaction" is the feeling she gets from helping people, she says.

"I would want someone compassionate and supportive if I were in the shoes of the people I support."

In her spare time, Gutowski says she enjoys roller blading, working out and visiting her family and friends.

Gutowski says 30 years from now she can see herself in a position of co-ordinating support programs for special need individuals.

She says the advice she'd give to anyone interested in the ERSN program is "make sure you're serious and dedicated to helping others and use common sense because you're influencing the lives of others."

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First Careerfest 'productive,' say organizers

At left, Linda Cybulski, and Karen Stock operate a booth representing a globals logistic company at Careerfest '98.
Photo by Lee Whitehead

By SHANNON PALOMAKI
Staff Writer

It was a "productive" day for Careerfest '98.

The graduating students of Niagara College's Business-Sales program held the one-day event on March 31.

The planning and promotions class organized the first Careerfest at the college's Welland campus.

Opening ceremonies began at 10 a.m. with welcoming speeches from College President Dan Patterson; Janet Forfar, graduate employment consultant; Barry Sharpe, director of the Business and Entrepreneurship Division; and Nancy Schappert, co-ordinator of the Business-Sales program.

Students were encouraged to hand their resumes to the representatives of the businesses who were at Careerfest, such as Thrifty's clothing store chain, 101.1 The River, and a St. Catharines radio station. Nineteen other businesses participated.

There were two guest speakers, Richard Johnson and Luigi Bertulli. Johnson is a small business and entrepreneur columnist for the *St. Catharines Standard* and small business consultant for St. Catharines-Niagara Business Self Help Office. Bertulli is a regional labor market consultant and retired employee of the federal Human Resource Development Canada.

Forfar said Bertulli "spoke confidently" and "left a positive, upbeat message" to students for the "projected job growth in the future."

Careerfest '98 went "very well," Forfar said, adding it's important for students and employers to feel the day was "productive."

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When you fill out an application form, you are actually developing a business plan. Take the completed form to a participating branch of Royal Bank. The bank will review the business plan and decide on application approval.

The deadline to apply for a 1998 loan is June 12, 1998

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Annual sale set for June 6

By PAUL JACKSTIES
Staff Writer

Niagara College's Construction Engineering Technology and Architecture program is gearing up for its annual garage sale to help upgrade and maintain its computer lab.

"Last year we had a load of stone, a load of top soil, patio bricks, a drafting table and used computer equipment," said Bill McFall, 37, a student of the program. "We're shooting for the same sort of stuff this year."

Organized by Construction Engineering Technology

This will be McFall's second year helping with the sale to be held at the Niagara Construction Association, 34 Scott St., in St. Catharines, at the corner of Scott and Ontario streets, on June 6.

Items for the sale are donated by the college, students and local contractors.

Anyone wishing to donate items can get names and phone numbers of committee members from the bulletin board in Lundy Room 5 of the Welland campus. Arrangements to have donations picked up can be made by the program.

Nursing alumni invited back

All former nursing students from Niagara College are invited back for a special reception at the Americana Resort and Conference Centre on Lundy's Lane in Niagara Falls on Thursday, June 11.

Tickets, which cost $15, should be purchased by June 1.

The reception begins at 3 p.m. with a special presentation set for 4:30 p.m. Hors d'oeuvres, punch, coffee and tea will be served with a cash bar.

Tickets can be ordered by calling Niagara College at 1-905-735-2211, Ext. 7801. Cheques can be made payable to Niagara College Nursing and mailed to Niagara College, Room H12A, 300 Woodlawn Rd., P.O. Box 1005, Welland, L3B 5S2.

St. Catharines Association for Community Living invites you to

Enjoy your life more - being part of another's

a United Way Agency

We, at the St. Catharines Association for Community Living have a number of ways you can fit into our picture. **Career opportunities, paid and volunteer positions are offered.** You are invited to consider the opportunities offered in the selections below. Once you have chosen the option you find of greatest interest ...

CALL TO SEE WHAT'S IN IT FOR YOU!

Where do YOU fit in our picture?

HOMESHARE

Open your home and heart to someone who has a developmental disability.

Receive:

- **daily monetary compensation (tax free)**
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- **ongoing training**
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Selected* Homeshare Providers offer room, board and supervision.

(*There is an initial screening process, however no specific education or experience is required).

For further information call:
688-5222 Ext. 232

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Relief for families with a child or adult who has a developmental disabilty and live in St. Catharines, N.O.T.L. and surrounding areas.

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For further information call:
984-5524 Ext. 244

VOLUNTEERING

Volunteers are recognized as a valuable resource within all Association Programs; enhancing the quality of support we are able to provide to persons who have a developmental disability. Although it is expected that you will provide a specific service to the best of your ability, all efforts will be made to fulfill your needs for volunteering.

Volunteers have the opportunity to enjoy the following rewards:

- **personal development & friendships**
- **work/career experience**
- **sense of satisfaction & contribution to your community**

Volunteers are welcomed in many areas:

- Fundraising
- Board of Directors
- Leisure Buddy
- Transportation
- Special Events

For further information call:
688-5222 Ext. 259

SPECIAL SERVICES AT HOME

Special Services at Home is a Ministry of Community and Social Services Program that provides one to one workers for persons with a developmental disability

Receive:

- **hourly wage**
- **ongoing training and additional supports**
- **career opportunities**
- **work experience**

Selected* Special Services at Home Workers have the opportunity to assist another person in attaining their goals

(*No special qualifications are required however you must be 16 years or older).

For further information call:
984-5524 Ext. 237

Niagara News

The Niagara News is a practical lab for the **Journalism-Print Program**, covering the college community and other areas of interest. Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the management of the Niagara News or the administration of Niagara College. P.O. Box 1005, 300 Woodlawn Rd., Room S212, Welland, Ont. L3B 5S2. Phone (905) 735-2211/ 382-2383/ FAX (905) 735-8112.

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Rock should care more

Who is going to take the responsibility?

Federal Health Minister Allan Rock recently announced a $1.1-billion compensation package for about 20,000 Hepatitis C victims on March 27.

However, a lot of victims — those excluded from the compensation package who contracted Hepatitis C from January 1986 to July 1990 — are in a rage.

The victims have argued the dates are arbitrary because testing methods were also available before 1986.

Rock and his provincial counterparts have been under attack from opposition politicians as well as victims.

Even though a few provincial premiers from several provinces are trying to provide more financial help for those suffering from Hepatitis C, it's still not enough.

Let's put ourselves in the shoes of those Hepatitis C victims and think about it.

It won't be that easy just ignoring it.

They need more concern and care from the public.

It's time for Canadians to step forward and pay more attention to those left out of this compensation package.

Mun-Hee Shin

Submarines are important

Undersea naval power is a must for Canada.

The Canadian navy has recently announced the purchase of four "almost new" Upholder class submarines from the British navy to replace the 30-year-old Oberon class submarines still in service.

Why does Canada need submarines?

The answer is simple: we can't do without them. Submarines are a crucial component of any modern navy, even though the Cold War is over.

Undersea surveillance is an effective tool in combating the drug trade, preventing foreign fishing and protecting Canadian sovereignty in the Arctic.

How do submarines do this?

A submarine can remain unseen, yet track its targets accurately either by sight (periscope) or by sound (sonar).

The advantage of being unseen makes it very useful for co-operating with the RCMP in monitoring drug trafficking along our vast coastline, at a fraction of the cost of a surface vessel.

While the submarine is the ultimate weapon of war, it can also offer a wide variety of peacetime applications.

Sean Coffey

Letter to the editor

Reader praises Niagara News

Dear Editor:

I recently picked up a copy of Niagara News, thinking it's another wannabe newspaper here in the Falls. Much surprised, I realized it was, in fact, an impressive publication produced by Niagara College students. Great work!

One article truly hit a nerve — Jenn Walker's "When I Grow Up," in which she talks about being a writer and its associated fears.

If I can add a little solace to her dilemma, relax, Jenn. I, too, am a writer of sorts. In my 20 or so years in the workforce, I've been a "writer" as one who has written commercial copy for radio in major markets, as a "writer" of internal audit reports for a Fortune 500 company, as a "writer" of legal papers and as a "writer" of various newspaper and magazine articles and advertisements.

Despite not having taken one day of schooling for this skill, I attribute all my successes in life to the ability of writing well.

Think of your "writing skills" that you have acquired as the foundation to other things you will be doing. In our society, the written word is king.

Anyone with a command of the English language is truly in control of their destiny. With exemplary writing skills, the world is totally open to you, not just in print media.

All great lawyers, all media, politicians, advertising gurus, charismatic leaders and business giants — they all possess excellent writing skills.

Paralleling writing skills is the art of effective communication. Rest assured, this is one skill you'll take with you regardless if nursing, acting, modeling, mothering or whatever is in your cards.

Judging by your article, you'd likely be good at all of the above. Perhaps all that is required is an added dose of self-confidence.

Congratulations on graduating!

Sincerely,

J. Brown
Niagara Falls

Food for cash

It's a question of every dollar helping. Chris Blake, executive director of the Niagara College Foundation, the money-raising arm of the college, serves hot dogs to Welland campus students and faculty on April 8. Assisting him are Liz Palmieri, development associate, and Martha Gleddie, special events co-ordinator for the foundation. The foundation's goal is raise $6 million, with about $150,000 coming from the college community. The campaign has raised about $3.4 million for the new campus in Niagara-on-the-Lake set to open in September and renovations to the Welland campus. All proceeds from barbecues at the college's three campuses in Welland, St. Catharines and Niagara Falls are going to the fund-raising campaign and projects in the college's three Learning Resource Centres. About $600 was raised at the three barbecues.

Photo by J.W. Brown

Abortion controversy not over yet

By AMY KAAL
Staff Writer

Abortion is not my favorite issue to discuss.

Having said that, I feel I must speak out about abortion. I'll tell you right away I'm against it, or as some people call it "pro-life."

I don't understand why women have abortions. There are millions of people who would do anything to have children and can't, and some women are killing them.

If females are mature enough to have sex, they should be mature enough to walk into a drugstore and buy condoms. That would lessen their chance of abortion even becoming an issue to them.

A woman should want more for her unborn fetus than death. If a woman can't afford to raise a child, then she should give the child up for adoption. That would be the unselfish and right thing to do. It would also make adoptive parents' dreams come true.

In Canada abortions are legal. And I'm the one who ends up paying for abortions through taxes.

Do people understand the fetus is alive from conception? Just because you can't hear the baby crying doesn't mean it isn't alive.

Don't get me wrong. I don't hate people who have abortions.

Everybody is allowed her own choice in what she does. I just don't understand why.

Just because you can't hear the baby crying doesn't mean it isn't alive

I'm sure there are things I do that people don't like — for example, this column — but that's why we live in a free country where we, as Canadians, can speak our minds.

As Canadians, however, we need to do something about teenage pregnancy and abortion rates. Not all teenagers are having abortions, but they are a significant part of the problem.

I know my opinion will get me in trouble, but who else will speak for the babies murdered every day?

I don't know when I realized I was opposed to abortion. I just believe everybody in this world deserves a chance, not to be killed because of inappropriate timing or ignorance.

Just think of all the scientists, doctors, lawyers, judges or even journalists who would have been on this earth but aren't, because of abortion.

Canadians helpful

College an example of a better society

By MUN-HEE SHIN
Staff Writer

Let's make a better society.

It has been almost eight months since I came to Canada from Korea.

At first, I was very nervous about doing anything without someone's help in Canada because everything was new to me.

Fortunately, I got a lot of help from the teachers and classmates at Niagara College, and so I was able, to some extent, to get adapted to the Canadian lifestyle.

One of the most impressive things for me living in Canada was the relationship between the teachers and the students. The students can ask for help from the teachers any time and the teachers are willing to help their students all the time.

Even though I'm a foreigner here, I've never been treated like one from the teachers.

It's the first time for me to live far away from home.

Sometimes I need someone to be concerned about me and being taken care of.

I never forget when I get help from someone and try to return the favor in any way I can.

One of the most important things in my life is always to express gratitude to those who help me and who are nice to me.

We never know what we'll experience or confront in our life.

So we need to treat others kindly to have that better society which we are all seeking.

Living with the pain

By SHANNON PALOMAKI
Staff Writer

As I was visiting my grandmother's for summer break, I woke up because of a disturbing pain in my back. I went to the family doctor the next day.

After an examination, I was sent immediately for X-rays, not knowing what was really going on.

Once the X-rays got back I was told that I had scoliosis.

Scoliosis is a chronic, progressive condition affecting about two per cent of the population. Typically it strikes females ages 10 to 15 causing their backbones to bow from side to side rather than grow in a straight line from neck to tailbone.

Although not life threatening, if left untreated, a misshapen spine may rotate, constricting the rib cage and encroaching on the lungs and heart.

At 14 years of age this was all too overwhelming.

In the next four years I became a frequent visitor to the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto.

My curve had progressed, over time, from about 36 to 52 degrees and the doctors began to contemplate whether surgery was necessary. Once a curve reaches 50 degrees or higher, surgery becomes the answer. With the thought of a one per cent chance of death in all major surgeries, my mom decided against it.

One year after the diagnosis of my severely S-curved spine, I was given a brace, which went from the bottom of my hips to my armpits. It was made of thick plastic and was the most uncomfortable contraption you could imagine.

I was told to wear the brace for eight hours a day. Not being able to sit down or roll over while sleeping, I dreaded wearing the brace every day.

Eventually the brace became a part of the space in the back of my clothes closet.

Giving up on it, I tried exercising more to strengthen my back.

If I choose surgery as a last resort, I'll have to wear a body cast for three months and won't be able to play sports or do any physical activities for nine months.

Today it isn't obvious I have scoliosis unless you feel my rib cage or the curve in my spine. Some days can be painful, but I just feel lucky I have 10 fingers and 10 toes.

Timing can be everything

By STACEY POW
Staff Writer

It's about time.

When I first came to Niagara College in September 1997, there were almost no clocks. This surprised me because you'd think clocks would be a standard thing to have in a college.

The lack of clocks made it hard for me to make it to classes and appointments on time. Getting there on time was especially hard for me because I had lost my watch in the move to Welland. In the search for my classes, not knowing the time became one more thing to slow me down.

When an article was publish in the *Niagara News* about the lack of clocks around the campus, I realized I wasn't the only one having a problem with no clocks. The complaints were obviously heard because clocks soon started showing up in classrooms and hallways.

Finally all the clocks were replaced, and a few months later the clocks are still in place and most are still reading the right time.

It just goes to show you that with a little persistence anything can happen.

Apple, Adobe strut their stuff

By MÉLANIE BLAIS
Staff Writer

Paul Dayboll, 38, Niagara College faculty for Macintosh desktop publishing courses, and owner of CanTrack Software Inc., invited Apple Canada and Adobe Systems company representatives to Niagara College.

At 11 a.m. on March 26 in the Secord Room, Bernard Becker, senior systems engineer, and Christianne Banfield, account manager — higher education, Apple Canada Inc. employees, as well as Collin Smith, applications engineer, an Adobe Systems Inc. employee, spoke to students and faculty.

More than 100 people watched a demonstration of a variety of software and hardware from Apple and Adobe Systems.

"It's important for students to see what's happening and to see successful people in business," says Dayboll.

He says he usually drives to Toronto to see the demonstrations, adding "trying to bring three people here (to Niagara College) is easier than bringing 200 students to Toronto."

Dayboll says Apple's products are used in industry. "I see more (Apple) in an industry setting than in a home."

Banfield said Apple Canada Inc. has a special offer for students.

If students purchase any Powermac G3 desktop computer with mini tower until June 15 they can choose one of the following free: 32 megs of RAM, a virtual PC or two years of extended warranty.

If students also purchase a 17-inch monitor they can choose two of the items listed.

Reciprocal trade

From left are Becky Quinlan, of St. Catharines, Theo Ward, of St. Catharines, Jose Tomas Letelier, Chile's ambassador to Canada, Grier Salter, of St. Catharines and Nancy McDonald, of Niagara Falls. Ouinlan, Ward, Salter and McDonald are students in the International Trade (Post-graduate) program who participated in the Team Canada Trade Mission to Latin America in January. Letelier spoke to a group of about 50 local business people at the Niagara Region trade reception, which was a followup to the trade mission, at Chateaux des Charmes winery in Niagara-on-the-Lake on April 14. The event was hosted by the Niagara Economic and Tourism Corporation (NETCORP) and Niagara College. The college has recently established a partnership with the University of Santo Tomas in Santiago, Chile.

Photo by Sean Coffey

What about Chelsea?

By BARB DODDY
Staff Writer

With scandals in the White House arising daily, has anyone thought about the Americans' First Daughter?

Chelsea has been in the spotlight since her father was elected president in November 1992. She's never been favored by the press. She's always been compared to the smaller, blonde-haired, blue-eyed Gore girls, daughters of Vice-president Al Gore.

She was questioned when she chose Stanford University in California over more prestigious, more favored, close-to-the-White House universities.

She's also made fun of on television skits almost as often as her father.

At Stanford she is a freshman with Secret Service agents watching her day and night. It's hard enough being a freshman, let alone trying to balance a nutritious diet, a social life and a workload of sometimes up to 10 classes. It must be hard to decide who you want to be and what you want to do, while being homesick and trying to gain your ground.

With all that, can you imagine turning on the television and seeing your family name with a new story attached to it almost every evening?

The stories have included new and strange women coming out of hiding with accusations about her father's marital fidelity, family friends being interrogated by grand juries and her mom being grilled by Matt Lauer on NBC's *Today* show.

What was Chelsea's reward for all she has to put up with? A trip to South Africa where she watched her dad panic as a mass of people, just coming to greet him, almost trampled him.

Does anyone even care? I haven't heard Barbara Walters or Dan Rather ask "What about Chelsea?" so I'm asking.

It makes me glad my parents are ordinary, hard-working people and I'm thankful for the small town atmosphere I grew up in.

Life's choices are puzzling

By SONYA DRAGAN
Staff Writer

Was college the right route?

Did I make the right choice for my life?

Being 17 when I left Sarnia for college, maybe I was too young to be venturing on my own.

Looking back, I couldn't wait to get away from home. I thought nothing would be better than getting away from my home town.

I thought I was ready to experience what life had to offer—to get away from living with Mommy and Daddy and get my feet wet in the real world.

I thought life would be much easier by not having to deal with the pressures of home life or the people who claimed to be my friends.

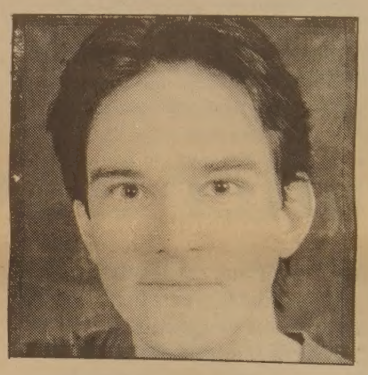
Looking back to why I thought college would change my life, I thought it would help me come out of my shell and help me meet new people. I thought college might give me an extra boost of confidence I needed, to try to find out who I really am and explore my options in life.

Now, when I think about my first year of college, I can't believe how the time has flown by. When I try to remember what I've accomplished over the past eight months, my mind's a blank. It seems only yesterday I was starting at Niagara College. Now, I'm gearing down for summer holidays. Where has the time gone?

When I look toward September and all the surprises the year may bring, I wonder if starting college when I was 17 was a mistake because I'll only be 19 when I graduate. Then what?

Did I make the right choice for my life?

Busy school year coming to end as students finish their classes



By ASHLEY SMITH
Staff Writer

With another year come and just about gone, I am filled with nothing more than pure smiles of hope for the students who are leaving Niagara College . . . yeah, right!

Talk about stress. As a first-year Journalism-Print program student I have never quite experienced the rush and craziness of the year-end blitz.

Sure, the middle of the year was exciting, but something about the end, the last few weeks of school, seems to conjure up nervous breakdowns, hunger pains and long-pounding headaches.

There are projects to finish, presentations to be made, papers to write but for some reason we, the students who think they know it all, leave it until the very end of the year to complete everything.

Sarah Mole, 19, a first-year Broadcasting — Radio, Television and Film program student, says, "If I can make it through this week I can make it through anything."

She says she has all of her seven exams and four of her major projects to contend with, all in one week. "Next week is definitely going to be 'Intoxication Week.'"

What is it about the end of the year that makes all this so hard — the weather? Obviously. We sit in our apartments, the rooms that are growing old faster than the bread on the counter.

We are sticky with sweat from the unusual heatwaves. We eat food we really can't afford anymore. Our parents keep chanting "Ahh, welcome to reality." On top of it all, we are expected to read books that bore us and write stories that aren't really creative enough to be called our own.

"It is so horrible when you have to look out and see the beautiful weather and you have to stay in and write a paper," says Mole. "I just want to get out there and frolic in the yard."

This is college life.

This is the life you struggled through high school for.

Aren't you proud? You should be.

With only days left — a few absolutely crazy days — you should be proud you are able to handle the baggage of school.

Enjoying music festivals

By SHARILYN JOHNSON
Staff Writer

Ahh, summer. Season of sun, fun and music festivals.

Chances are you'll be hearing a lot about events like Edgefest and Lilith Fair during the next few months, but have you considered ditching the mainstream lineups in favor of a folk festival?

Before saying "I hate folk music," you should know that folk in the 1990s is more than just a 50-year-old hippie strumming his acoustic guitar and singing about labor unions. It's artists like Great Big Sea, Spirit of the West and Ani DiFranco. It's blues, Celtic, African, rock and everything in between.

It's music you didn't know you liked.

I reluctantly attended my first folk festival in Winnipeg three years ago, and now I can't imagine a summer without one.

At folk festivals you get to hear music to which you otherwise wouldn't be exposed. Have you ever experienced the lyrical wizardry of Veda Hille, Bob Snider or Vance Gilbert? The humor of Loudon Wainright, Trout Fishing In America or The Arrogant Worms?

You haven't lived until you've danced to The Nields with 100 strangers or heard Les Barker's tale of *Cosmo, the Fairly Accurate Knife Thrower*.

Folk festivals give you unique experience

Arguably one of the best festivals in North America is Summerfolk in Owen Sound, Ont. What has already been released of their 1998 lineup is enough to make any folkie drool.

The feeling of standing on the shores of Georgian Bay at dusk on a hot summer night while Martin Sexton plays in the distance is indescribable. That's what a folk festival gives you — unique experiences unmatched by any prepackaged beer-sponsored stadium show.

Everyone needs better civility

By SHANNON PALOMAKI
Staff Writer

Drink like a fish, fight like a man.

That seems to be the trend today, not only at the clubs, but the coffee shops too.

A couple of weeks ago I went with some friends to a local club in St. Catharines. We left because it was so frustrating to get to and from the bar or washroom because of how crowded the club was.

On our way to the parking garage we witnessed about four ambulances and three police cars on the scene with a large crowd of people standing over a person who was motionless on the ground.

Avoiding the situation, we went to the stairs of the garage to be greeted by a smashed window in the door and a trail of smeared blood leading us to our floor where we had parked the car.

As we drove away I wondered if I had known the people who had caused the mess.

The next week we decided to go to a less-populated pub where there's usually an older crowd.

As we were sipping our drinks and chatting away, we nearly got thrown through the window of the pub because of a fight between two men.

The owner there threw the two men out of the bar.

When I asked why the fight had begun, we were told it was because one man had "looked" at the other "the wrong way."

Giving up on the clubs and pubs, we decided the coffee shop was a safe bet.

Halfway through our coffee, we were interrupted by the sound of one man's fist hitting another man's face.

Danielle Winn, 19, of St. Catharines, our waitress, said the fight had started because of some "spit balls" being flung over the tables.

Come on, people. When you go out at night and take a last glance in the mirror to ensure everything is in place, do you see the bruises you may have the next morning?

School's out — have a good summer!

Welland Big Sisters display their big hearts

By AMY KAAL
Staff Writer

A Niagara College graduate is the executive director at the Big Sisters of Welland, Port Colborne and Pelham.

Joanne McKinley, 32, of Zurich, Ont., graduated from the college's Social Service Worker program.

Big Sisters is a non-profit organization, which means it receives no funding from the government.

McKinley says they are 78 per cent funded by the United Way, an amount which is "pretty significant," she says.

Big Sisters raises money by special events such as a three-on-three basketball tournament being held on May 29 to 31. Participants are men and women, ages nine to adult, from across the Niagara Region.

McKinley says the tournament is "well organized."

Another fund-raiser is the calenders they sell for $10. A tab you can rip off the calender gives you a chance to win from $25 to $1,000. They also sell tree ornaments at Christmas and fireworks before Victoria Day. The fireworks raise about $3,000.

"We're having to do more and more fund-raising, as the United Way dollars decline," says McKinley.

Big Sisters has about 250 volunteers. "Sometimes I think volunteers underrate themselves a little bit," says McKinley, "because just being there (for little sisters) is really helpful and it's not that they have to say the right words. It is just being there and the little sister knowing that she can turn to someone who she can trust."

Big Sisters has 78 matched little sisters and 56 unmatched. There are 21 girls who want to be little sisters, but their applications haven't been processed yet.

To be a little sister young girls must indicate a need for a big sister, such as being from a single-parent family or a limited income family, being an abused child or needing someone to talk to. "Eighty per cent of the time it is the parent that calls," says McKinley.

"Our focus is providing support to girls because all the literature shows that when kids are growing up, the factor that helps them most get through any difficult experiences and go on to be well-adjusted in adulthood is the support of friendship."

JOANNE MCKINLEY

She says the waiting period is about one year for a little sister and teenagers always wait longer. She says the agency has a new public relations committee to look at reducing the wait list.

"I feel very good that as an agency or mandate (we are) wide enough that people don't have to fit into holes in order to get service from us, that we'll look at the individual and if we see a need we'll try to provide service," says McKinley.

To become a big sister applicants must be 18 years old or over and commit to three to four hours a week for a minimum of one year. The applicant fills out a form that asks for three references and a doctor's reference. A police check will be required as well.

Then there is an office interview, a home visit, six to eight weeks of training, an interview to discuss three girls the agency says are compatible. Then the big sister picks a little sister.

Once a big and little sister are matched, there are telephone updates for the first few months. At three and six months there is an office interview to see how the relationship is going and to ask if it's what they thought it would be, says McKinley.

The agency has monthly recreation programs for little and big sisters to attend. Volunteers take about half of the unmatched girls. The events in the past have been swimming, aerobics, bingo, Christmas and Halloween parties, barbecues, picnics and trips to Marineland in Niagara Falls, says McKinley.

"People struggle with finding things to do (in winter months). We really emphasize low cost, no cost."

McKinley says a lot of local businesses help out. McDonald's offers free burgers, small fries and drinks to little sisters. The theatre at the Seaway Mall offers free movies for little sisters and some wax museums in Niagara Falls have special offers.

Big Sisters' main goal is "to provide supportive relationships to girls so that they can reach their full potential," says McKinley.

Graduate returns after travelling the world

By TIFFANY HERRON
Staff Writer

Niagara College can do more than educate you. It can also employ you.

Eva Pichelli, 39, attended Niagara College in 1978. She took a number of business courses and "put her education to use."

Twenty years later Pichelli has returned, this time as an employee.

In August 1997, Pichelli, of Welland, wanted to enrol in the Interior Design program but found it was no longer offered. She decided to "see what the college had to offer."

She recalled a college friend and decided it was time to pay a visit.

Four months later, she became an employee of the Welland campus bookstore as an assistant during the busy seasons. "Being a mother of three, this job is perfect for me. I love the people and I love meeting all of the students."

The job keeps her busy, says Pichelli. Her duties included making sure the "floor" was always in order. She worked at the cash register and throughout store, helping students find books they needed. To get the job she had to have a background knowledge in the courses the college offers.

"You get a lot of nervous students who don't know what they are looking for. It's my job to help them out."

Being five feet two inches tall and having to carry the books to the shelves was the only part of the job that wasn't fun, says Pichelli.

During the 20 years Pichelli was away from Niagara she led an "interesting" life, she says. In 1981 Pichelli's husband, Bruno, was offered a job in Khartoum, Sudan, just south of Egypt, as an airplane mechanic. This started many years of travel.

"I love my time in Africa," she says. "It is such a beautiful country. I was nervous to leave at first but once I left, I never looked back."

The Pichelli family lived there for three years. Pichelli worked as a flight attendant for an independent airline "so small I can't remember the name. There is a saying that once you have been in the Nile River, you will return again one day."

After leaving Khartoum, it was off to Bahrain in the Middle East. After spending another three years there, and with approach of the 1991 Gulf War, she says,"I felt it was time to move on. My baby was very young. It was our time to leave and to return home to Welland."

They didn't stay long. In 1991, the family was on the move again, this time to Japan for four years.

"My husband is in the airline industry. It requires a lot of relocating and many wonderful chances to travel and experience the world."

Returning here in 1995, she says they'll stay until the children, ages five, 11 and 13, are old enough to be on their own.

Having left Niagara College in January, she says she needed something to "preoccupy" herself. "I took up crafts. I sell them in a small antique shop in town at the 5th Street Plaza. This helps out with the financial situation at home."

Pichelli says she plans to return here in May to help with the summer courses. "I took a couple of computer courses here last year. I like it here. Hopefully, I will be here for a while."

Five years from now, Pichelli says, she hopes she will be further ahead, "maybe even own a little antique shop."

"I've got my foot in the door here at Niagara. Maybe I'll even hear of a full-time position and get hired on. Niagara gave me my education. Maybe now it will provide my career."

Try shaving your head before making a wish

By MUN-HEE SHIN
Staff Writer

The less hair, the more concentration.

Kazutaka Horiike, 24, of Japan, has been enrolled in the third-level course of the English as a Second Language (ESL) program at Niagara College.

He said he worked at a post office, transport company and warehouse company in Japan before coming to Canada.

"I came to Canada to improve my English skill and to get a degree. Moreover, I wanted to live abroad."

Horiike said he likes studying in the ESL program at the college because it is an "excellent program" for academic purposes.

In addition, he said the teachers are all friendly and trustworthy, and there are a variety of activities for ESL students.

Even though he enjoys the Canadian lifestyle, he was homesick for two months this term and was "quite depressed," he said.

"The hardest thing living in Canada is about food. I always wanted to go back to Japan just for Japanese food."

Horiike said, however, he regretted being depressed, realizing he can no longer go back to what he used to be in Japan and should be "optimistic about his future," so he decided to shave his hair.

There are several reasons to shave hair in Japan. Usually high school baseball team members are forced to shave their hair so that they can play fairly. Second, Buddhist priests believe hair is not clean, and shaving their hair is to respect Buddha and their soul, he said.

KAZUTAKA HORIIKE

'I came to Canada to improve my English skill and to get a degree. Moreover, I wanted to live abroad.'
— Kazutaka Horiike

"For some people shaving hair means to make a wish like me. This is to show how strongly they make up their mind and try to make their wish come true. It's a very important concept for Japanese."

He said he overcame his homesickness and could "concentrate on his studies."

At present, he is taking a night course English 133, which focuses on writing essays.

He said he enjoys the course because it's "fun and exciting to study with Canadian students."

"At first, sometimes it was hard for me to understand what the teacher is saying, but I came to follow more and more."

There are two choices after he finishes the ESL program, he said.

"I'd like to find a job in Canada after I take a computer-related program. But if I take the Broadcasting — Radio, Television and Film program, I want to get a job in Japan or at Japanese community in Canada. At this point, it's still up in the air."

Attending college was right decision

Doors opened in '67

By SARA De TAMBLE
Staff Writer

Niagara College has come a long way since it first opened its doors to students in 1967.

Dave Bruce, 48, of Fort Erie, attended Niagara during its first year.

Bruce was enrolled in the Mechanical Drafting Technician program. He says the college he attended has grown considerably since its first year. When he was here there was only one building.

"They were beginning construction on at least one of the outer buildings during that first year. Looking out behind campus there was one old farmhouse and a barn," he says, adding he decided to attend Niagara after graduating from Fort Erie Secondary School because most of his friends were going to Niagara.

Bruce says what he remembers most about Niagara was how small everything was "very much like high school, only smaller."

There weren't any extracurricular activities, although there was talk of a football team but it never materialized, he says.

Bruce says there was no residence, and most of the students came from Fort Erie, Welland, St. Catharines and Niagara Falls. "I don't remember anybody who didn't live in the area."

Although the Mechanical Drafting Technician program was two years long, Bruce says he went into the workforce after only one year at Niagara. He credits the education he received at the college for getting him a job in the drafting field.

"It was certainly impressive on a resume."

After working in mechanical drafting for two more years, Bruce says he went on to earn a diploma in industrial engineering at Etobicoke's Humber College. Today, he works in the sales and service department for Sandvik, a Swedish company which designs carbine cutting tools.

Bruce says he is still using what he learned during his time at Niagara whenever he has to look at blueprint drafts.

He says he has stopped into Niagara on occasion to visit his sister, Janet Matthews, who taught nursing until as recently as last semester, but has never really been back to see the campus.

Thirty years later, he says, he still feels he made the right decision by attending the college. "I don't have any regrets about going to Niagara."

She has no time for boredom

By JENN MOIR
Staff Writer

If the students drink them, she will come and pick up the empties.

Marlena Cavanaugh, 20, of Welland, Ont., is a second-year student in the Child and Youth Worker program at Niagara College.

Cavanaugh works as a busser at the After Hours pub on the Welland campus. To earn her $7 an hour she collects empty beer bottles, wipes tables, sweeps up broken glass, empties ashtrays and fills the coolers.

Cavanaugh's hours vary. She works Wednesdays at Yuk Yuk's Comedy Night from 11 p.m. until midnight or Thursday's Pub Night from 11 p.m. till close at 2 a.m. with an hour clean up afterwards.

She says before being hired, candidates must successfully complete the required Smart Serve course on responsible drinking.

She says employees have "to smile, have fun and get to know the customers."

Cavanaugh says she enjoys her job at the pub because "you escape from reality." She says, "When you work here you can't think of anything else. You have to remember what you're doing and stay focused on the job."

She says she doesn't like it when people do not move for her when "they can see you have an over-loaded case of beer bottles."

Cavanaugh says she hates filling the coolers, sweeping up glass and the attitude she is sometimes given by a customer. "A lot of them are nice and courteous towards the bussers, but you also have the percentage of people who are . . . snobs."

She says it's hard sometimes to concentrate on homework when she gets home at 3 a.m. In order to make her Friday 8:30 a.m. class, she doesn't go to sleep, she says, adding she takes this all into consideration. "If you fail a class it's your own fault. You are the one who chose to be here. If you fail, you get fired."

Cavanaugh says she "wouldn't change anything, except filling the coolers. I would have one of the security guys do it."

She says she is never bored. "(You) just don't have the time. You just can't stop — no break, no way."

No clubhouse sandwiches please

Service with a smile

By MÉLANIE BLAIS
Staff Writer

She cooks all day and goes home to cook again.

Rhonda Cumming, 40, of Welland, works at the Niagara College cafeteria at the Welland campus.

With no similar work experience, Cumming has had her position as general help at the cafeteria for eight years.

"I like cooking the breakfast here (at work), and at home, chicken parmesan."

Cumming says her least favorite menu item to make is a clubhouse sandwich because it's time consuming when it's "really busy."

She says the part she likes most about her job is "seeing the kids (students), and their happy faces."

Cumming says she's never had a problem with the students who are always polite to her. She says the students always say "thanks."

Besides cooking, Cumming cleans counters, washes dishes and works at the cash register.

She says she likes everything about her job, adding she enjoys her work "very much."

Cumming, a mother of two, says she doesn't mind getting up at 5:45 a.m. to start work at 7 a.m. She's paid an hourly wage and works weekdays until 2 p.m.

Before beginning her job at the college, Cumming was a dispatcher at TCG Materials, in Fonthill.

When she finishes work, Cumming goes home to do housework and to cook supper.

"I sometimes get tired of cooking."

At left, Donna Hanzel, 40, of St. Catharines, and Rhonda Cumming, 40, of Welland, both general help, attend to their daily duties at Niagara College's cafeteria.

Photo by Mélanie Blais

Open learning centre new for spring continuing education

By MELINDA SPURVEY
Staff Writer

With warmer seasons quickly approaching, Continuing Education at Niagara College offers numerous programs for educational use and recreational fun.

Shirley Tomovic, a development officer in the Continuing Education Department, says there are over 500 courses for the spring session. She says the entire department is "particularly proud" of the newer programs being offered.

"Continuing Education as a whole is focusing as a brand-new opportunity, on the Open Learning Centre. People can come in and sit down at a state of the art computer with CD ROM and all the toys that go along with it and you basically teach yourself."

Tomovic says "distance learning" allows an individual to learn independently through the use of technology.

"You can hook into other colleges and learn via the computer."

All courses are located at one of the three campuses, Tomovic says.

Prices vary from program to program, she says.

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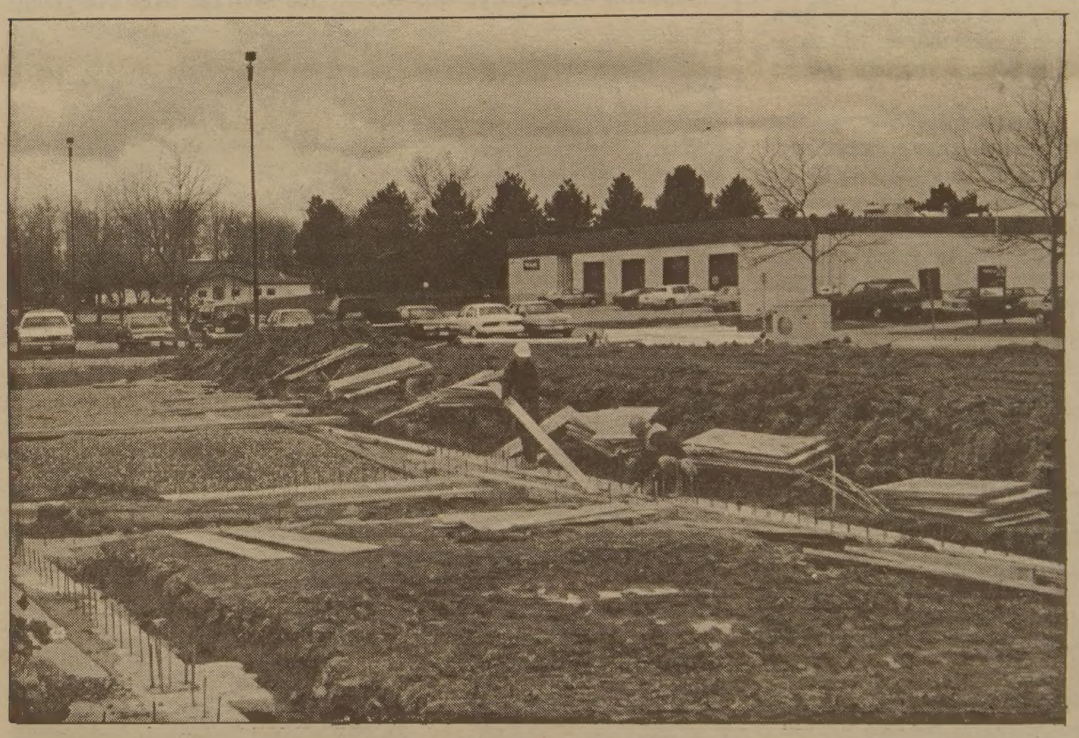
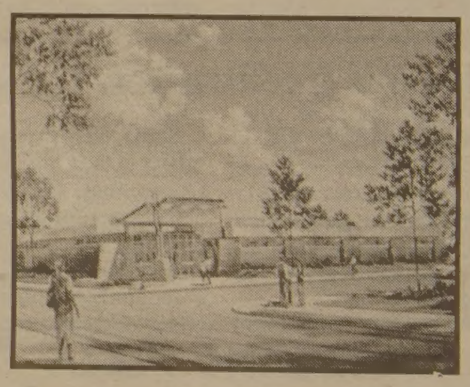
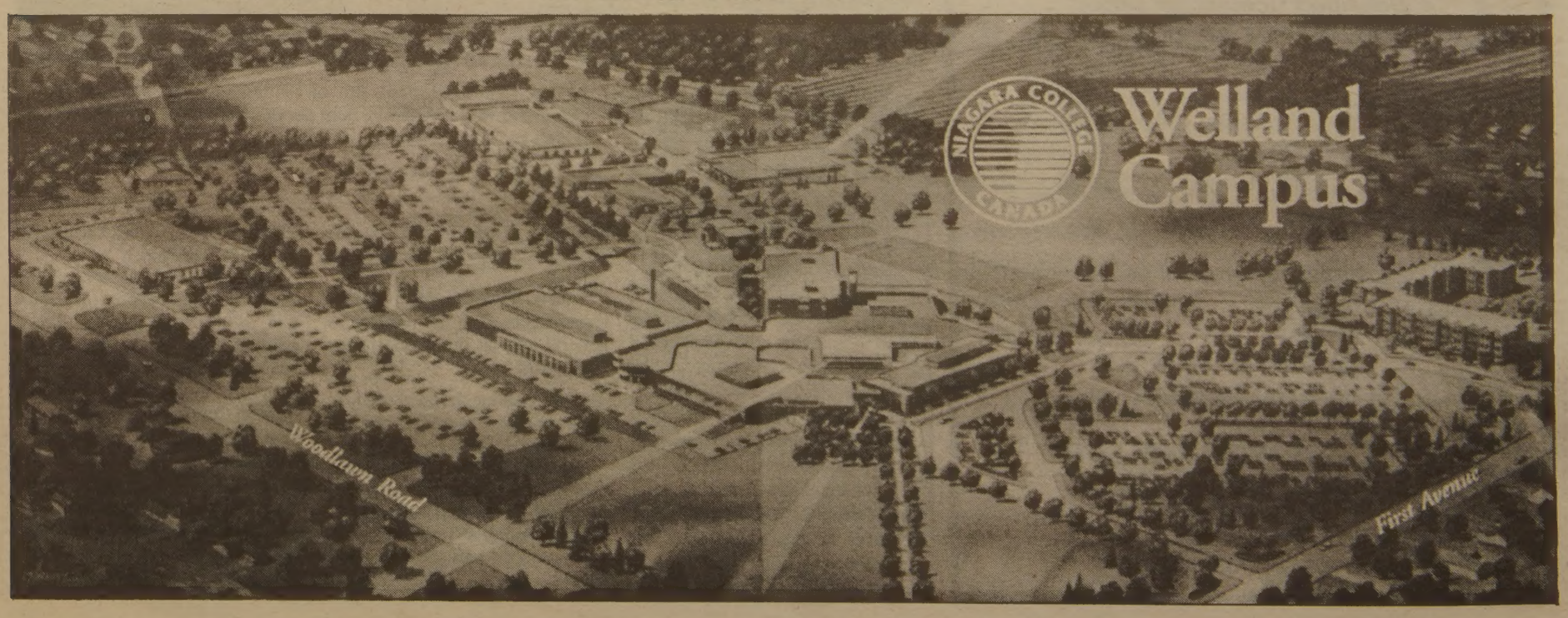
Welland campus redevelopment taking shape



A new Skill Centre for Motive Power Training is under construction just north of the Black Walnut building at the Welland campus. The 27,000-square-foot building, when ready in September, will include an automotive shop, autobody shop, fuels lab, power trains shop, engine shop and four classroom/computer lab spaces. See complete story on next page. Photographs taken by Sean Coffey. Graphic illustrations of the Welland campus and Skills Centre provided by Niagara College Communication and Planning Department.





Niagara motors towards the future

By AARON BEAUDOIN
Staff Writer

Fasten your seatbelts.

The future is here.

Niagara College has started construction on a state-of-the-art Skill Centre for Motive Power Training.

The 27,000-square-foot building, which is part of a $16-million redevelopment of the Welland campus, will open in September 1998.

"It's an exciting day for the college, it's an exciting day for the city of Welland, and it's an exciting day for the Niagara Region," said Welland Mayor Dick Reuter, at the Wednesday, April 8 celebration held in the Black Walnut building.

When completed, the centre will include an automotive shop, autobody shop, fuels lab, power trains shop, engine shop, and four classroom/computer lab spaces.

"We want to ensure that students are able to meet labor market needs of today and tomorrow," said Niagara College President Dan Patterson.

Niagara College President Dan Patterson stands in front of the site of the Skill Centre for Motive Power Training, set to open in September. In the background stands the Student Residence.
Photo by Aaron Beaudoin

Automotive programs at the Wellandvale campus in St. Catharines and a leased facility on Cushman Road in St. Catharines, will be combined into one location.

Students will be able to take advantage of modern facilities and equipment in computerized engine control, computerized fuel injection, passive seat-belt restraints and air-bag technology. The college's partnership with AC Delco for updating technicians skills will continue at the centre, while certified autobody technicians will be able to train in aluminum welding, MIG welding and refinishing welding.

Brian Moukperian, director, integrated manufacturing and customized training, says he thought this day would never come.

"Nearly 20 years after the incubation of this egg, it's gonna hatch," he said.

The automotive centre was designed by Piraino and Raimondo Associate Architects of Niagara Falls, and is being built by Brouwer Construction Ltd., of St. Catharines. The centre will be located north of the Black Walnut building.

Projects completed by the college are the $6-million, 231-bed student residence, which opened in 1997; a 85-space Child Care Centre and an upgraded fibre optics and digital comminications for the information highway were installed.

Future projects for the Welland campus include updated microelectronics and welding labs, an information kiosk at the main entrance, and a number of projects to remodel and modernize program and service areas.

Centre offers a helping hand

By MUN-HEE SHIN
Staff Writer

A Business and Technology Enterprise Centre (BTEC) in South Africa will be a mirror of the Innovation Centre (IC) in Niagara College.

The IC focuses on helping people who want to start their own business. The IC staff members are working with individuals to help them develop business plans.

Barbara Okanik, 38, of Sudbury, Ont., manager of the IC in St. Catharines campus, said this centre is like an "incubator" for personal nurturing, mentoring and consulting and is one of the most successful business centres in the province.

She will be embarking on a business trip with a project in South Africa from April 11 to April 20.

"These days we have been asked to assist a community called Butterworth, in South Africa, which has a school called East Cape Technikon," said Okanik.

Technikon is like a college with degree granting status. It offers technical and business programs, but does not offer entrepreneurship programs in the school so far.

This project is funded $280,000 by the Association of Canadian Community Colleges and the Canadian International Development Agency over four years from March 1998 to April 2001.

"What we are hoping to do is to assist the school in introducing a BTEC. It will be a mirror, in a sense, of the centre that we have in Niagara College."

Niagara College is setting up and developing business courses, services and infrastructures.

They had the opportunity to go to four enterprise centres around the province to see other models as well.

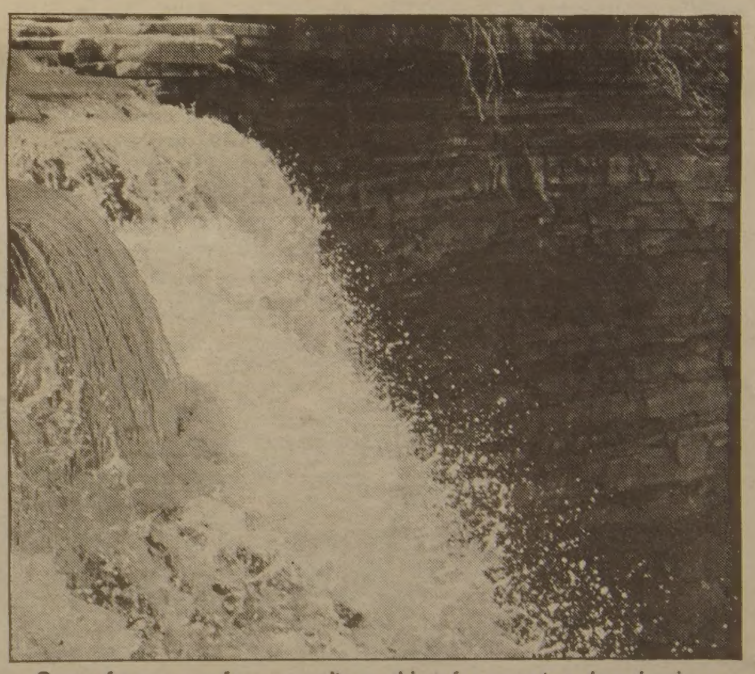
This project will expand to include community-based programs directly out of the IC.

From March 30 to April 11, two representatives from South Africa came to Niagara College to learn about the curriculum, which involves a client-management system.

They will pick some ideas from those centres and include them in the model that the IC will design for the BTEC in South Africa.

"We've collected a lot of valuable resources to assist in the project. It's very exciting and will demonstrate Niagara College's leadership in the enterprise development," said Okanik.

A refreshing change



Snow from area farms melts making for spectacular viewing at Ball's Falls in Jordan.
Photo by Aaron Beaudoin

Many hands needing many volunteers

Project requiring volunteers for a one-day event on May 23

By AMY KAAL
Staff Writer

One of Niagara College's newest post-graduate programs will be directly helping the community.

The Special Events Management post-graduate program has developed a Many Hands project in which a Welland site is chosen as a one-day renovation event. All People's Co-op Nursery and Day Care Inc., at 109 Chaffey St. in Welland is this year's choice. The January start program is in its first year.

The mission of the "Many Hands" project is to develop community co-operation and pride through volunteer-driven projects aimed at assisting non-profit organizations in the Niagara Region.

Bob Stepian, 38, of St. Catharines, is a member of the marketing and communications committee. He says he chose special events management for a "career change and to look at event management as a new occupation."

He says the project requires all kinds of volunteers, "from warm bodies that can fog a mirror to technical people that know how to build."

About 100 volunteers from the college and the community will be needed on Saturday, May 23 from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

They will help in landscaping, cleaning, painting, light construction, food distribution and general cleanup.

Each receives a Many Hands project T-shirt, breakfast, lunch, dinner, snacks, door prizes and a volunteer involvement certificate, all of which are being donated by local businesses, says Andrea Raemisch, 22, of Ridgeway, also on the marketing and communications committee. She says she hopes to get involved with festivals, the Canadian National Exhibition and the Calgary Stampede.

This year's Many Hands project is receiving support from the Niagara College Foundation and Canadian Tire Acceptance Ltd.

Stepian says students are trying to make people aware of the need to volunteer by media releases to the *Welland Tribune* and coverage, before and after the event by Cogeco. They made a verbal presentation to Welland City Council April 7.

Organizers say exhibition successful

Hundreds of spectators crowded winery

By J.W. BROWN
Staff Writer

The public was in for a night of creativity at a Beamsville winery.

Magnotta Cellars in Beamsville was open April 3 for a reason other than selling wine.

The occasion was the opening night of a weekend exhibition of artwork by students at Niagara College's Art and Design Fundamentals — Graphic Design Production program.

'The thing that impressed most people was the students and the way they presented themselves in a professional manner.'
— Ken Cosgrove

The exhibition included photographs by the second-year students in the Journalism — Print program and the design work of the students in the Interactive Multimedia program. The first night of the exhibition was open to the public.

About 300 curious art lovers stepped leisurely around the many chrome wine racks and wooden wine kegs to view the artwork. Brightly colored paintings of every imaginable subject covered the walls. Black and white photographs, drawings, and computer graphics lined display panels that had been set up to form a path for the viewers to follow.

In the middle of the room, a tightly buttoned bartender served free samples of wine. Heads bobbed backwards gently as the wine tasters sipped at the numerous brands available to them. Fingerfood was abundant.

Dan Patterson, president of Niagara College, and Saundra, his wife, attended the exhibition.

"It's a very impressive show and the ambience that the students have created is a real testament to their skills and creativity," said Patterson. "It's also a great example of the college working in partnership with the wine industry. By displaying their creative talents in a winery setting, they are able to demonstrate to the public and industry representatives their skills and capabilities."

Visual 98

Ken Cosgrove, the staff consultant for the exhibition, said, "I thought it was superb and I've seen a lot of shows. The beauty of this one was that it was completely organized and run by the students. They raised the necessary money, they organized all the transportation, they did the hangings and the installations, and they organized the catering.

"The thing that impressed most people was the students and the way they presented themselves in a very professional manner. This college should be very proud of these students. They are exactly what Canada needs — people who will get down and do it themselves."

Elizabeth Toth, one of the second-year Art and Design Fundamentals — Graphic Design Production program students, said, "It's the first night and I think it's been very successful. We were really happy to have the photo-journalists and the multimedia students represented at the show, as well as the art and design students."

THE NIAGARA ART AND DESIGN COLLECTIVE WISH TO THANK THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS, AND CORPORATIONS WITHOUT WHOSE HELP THIS EXHIBITION WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE:
Canadian Tire Acceptance Corporation
Magnotta Cellars
Akula Signs & Graphics
Central Motors
Ken Cosgrove
Dobbie Printing
Framing and Art Centre
Nancy Geddie
Linley & Geddie Marketing and Design
Howard Paton
Dave Robinson
Student Administrative Council - Niagara College
Thompson Graphics
Leo Tiberi
Carole Timm
THE NIAGARA ART AND DESIGN COLLECTIVE GROUP COMPRISED OF THE VISUAL AND CRE
ART AND DESIGN GRADUATING CLASS 19
WHOSE GOALS ARE TO ESTABLISH AN EXI
OF STUDENT WORK, AND A BURSARY F

Elizabeth Toth, one of the organizers of the art show, stands beside the list of supporters for the fund-raising campaign.

Photo by Aaron Beaudoin

She said they had "great support" in the fund-raising campaign for the exhibition from the corporate sector. "Namely, Tom Gauld at Canadian Tire Acceptance (in Welland), Magnotta Cellars, Information Communication and Technology (at Niagara College in Welland) director, Leo Tiberi, and of course, Niagara College President Dan Patterson," she said, adding their goal in the fund-raising campaign was $3,000, which was surpassed by $750. The surplus will go to a bursary fund for the graduating students' show next year.

The exhibition on April 4, which was by invitation only, was attended by about 150 visitors. The last night of the exhibition, April 5, which was open to the public, was attended by about 200 visitors.

J.T. Lewis, 32, of Welland, a visiting photographer for the Welland Tribune, said, "I think it's wonderful. It's incredible the amount of talent within Niagara College."

David Bernard, 40, of Niagara Falls, a plant manager for Absolute Pallet and Crate in Niagara Falls, heard about the exhibition from "friends at Niagara College."

"The show was actually good," he said. "I like the way it was arranged. Some of the artwork is unreal. After you look at it, you can almost feel that you know the person who painted it. It's like they put a part of themselves into it."

Jeff Schelhas, 21, of Welland, a second-year student in the college's Journalism-Print program, said, "Very well done, well organized. I like the way it was displayed. The tour of the winery was quite impressive. The wine was great!"

Niagara College President Dan Patterson stands beside a sculpture entitled "The Mannican," by James Walton, a second-year Art and Design Fundamentals — Graphic Design Production program student.

Photo by J.W. Brown

Photographs by the second-year Journalism-Print program students.

Photo by Aaron Beaudoin

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Students raise money for AIDS Niagara

By MELINDA JOHNSTON
Staff Writer

AIDS is an incurable disease, but it is 99.9 per cent preventable if you use the proper protection.

Five second-year students in the Child and Youth Worker program at Niagara College set up an information kiosk that may save your life.

Since January, Bonnie Pemberton, 19, of Whitby, and Melissa Spardella, 20, of Port Colborne, along with Louise McInnes, 22, Yvonne Shepp, 21, and Kim Sloat 21, all of Hamilton, have been putting together a fund-raising project for their Dynamics class.

The cause they chose to focus on was acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS).

"AIDS is a social issue. A lot of young people are unaware of the dangers of AIDS. We want to help educate Niagara College students on safe sex," says McInnes.

"The highest group at risk are people between the ages of 16 and 25," says Spardella.

"A lot of the students still carry the attitude that it can't happen to them," says McInnes.

Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) has no limits. it infects people of all races, ages and both sexes. HIV is passed directly from one person to another via blood, semen or vaginal fluids.

"We can give out all of these condoms and provide all of this information, but it is still up to the individual what they do in the privacy of their bedrooms, that is their own business," says McInnes.

The group has had various responses from students approaching their kiosk.

"Some people are very stand-offish when they approach our table, but everybody wants free condoms," says Pemberton. "A lot of people just walk away."

HIV is nothing to ignore or walk away from. Non-nominal testing can be done, where just your initials are used or a code. This is done at the Mediklik Clinic in the St. Catharines General Hospital on Queenston Street Tuesdays and Thursdays between 6:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m.

"People should get tested now as a preventative measure, to ensure you don't have it, and if you do, to get the proper counseling and information on the latest drugs," says McInnes.

The group's kiosk was set up in the After Hours pub on the Welland campus April 7.

In order to raise funds, the group devised two contests: Guess how many condoms are in the jar and what was your most exotic experience? Each cost $1 to enter. Prizes included two 40-oz. bottles of vodka or gin, purchased by the group; T-shirts, baseball caps and condoms, all donated by Joan Blanchard from AIDS Niagara.

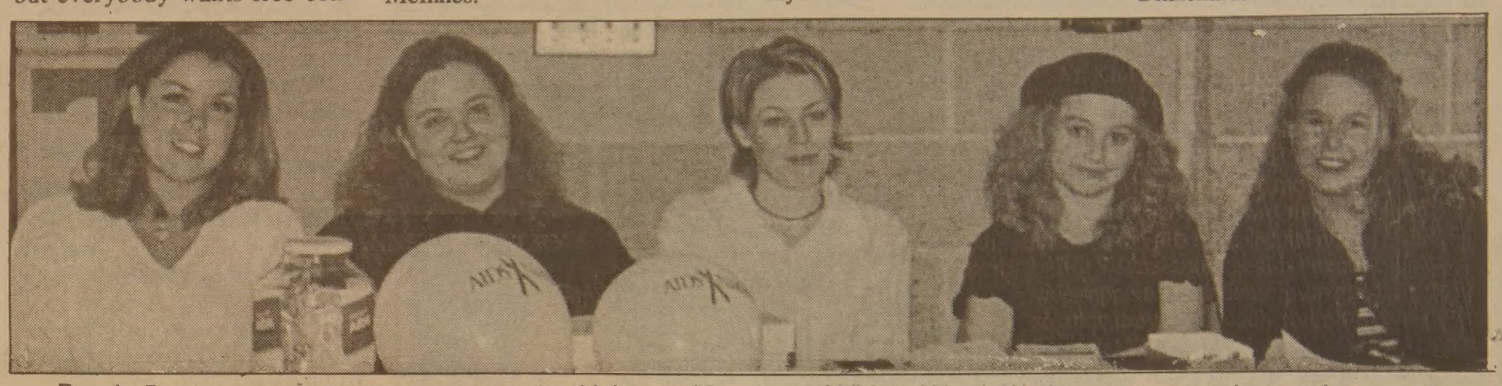
"The condoms come with instructions, just in case someone doesn't know how to use them," says Sloat.

All winners were notified by telephone April 9.

"Our goal is to raise a minimum of $50 and donate it to AIDS Niagara," says McInnes.

AIDS Niagara, at 50 William St., in St. Catharines, is a community-based charitable organization actively involved in the fight against AIDS.

"AIDS Niagara relies on community projects such as this to spread awareness of AIDS. I am very happy the students show so much initiative in getting the word out there," says AIDS Niagara's Blanchard.



Bonnie Pemberton, 19, Kim Sloat, 21, Louise McInnes, 22, Yvonne Shepp, 21, and Melissa Spardella, 20, all second-year Child and Youth Worker program students, raise money for AIDS Niagara in the After Hours pub on April 7.
Photo by J.W. Brown

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Not blue anymore

The New Meanies are living large

By SHARILYN JOHNSON
Staff Writer

Life is good for the New Meanies.

The band's new album, **Three Seeds**, is selling well, the video for its first single *Letting Time Pass* is on heavy rotation on MuchMusic, and critics are lining up to praise the band's edgy blues-rock sound.

There was a time, though, when the Meanies were blue. When the four members started playing clubs around Winnipeg in 1992, they went by the name the Blue Meanies. They released two independent albums before they signed to Virgin Records.

The name change from the Blue Meanies to the New Meanies happened when the group came across a Chicago ska band named the Blue Meanies.

"We wouldn't want to be touring the states and have people coming to see them, and then seeing us," says New Meanies drummer Jason Omand Kane, 25. "They've toured all over, so for us to go down there as the Blue Meanies would have made zero sense."

Bassist Sky Onosson, 26, says the band wanted to make the change before it became a problem.

Onosson says the band was courted by "a few" of the major labels, but decided to sign with Virgin because "they were more serious."

Now the Meanies live the life of a label band, with heavy press coverage, Virgin representatives at every gig, and a Virgin Records bio describing the band's Winnipeg neighborhood of Charleswood as a place "where there are ditches instead of sidewalks and porcupines cross the main drag."

"It's been a lot more fun, because everything's been more organized," Kane says of the change.

And the reference to porcupines crossing the street?

"There are none," he says. "Someone from Ontario, I think, wrote that."

The band members have kept themselves busy over the past few months, making appearances on Open Mike With Mike Bullard and MuchMusic to promote **Three Seeds**, touring extensively across the country, and even spending three days in Mexico City to shoot the video for their second single, the album's title track.

Even though life for the Meanies is much busier than it used to be, says Kane, "We have a pretty good feeling of accomplishment."

The New Meanies' current tour hit Big Buck's, in St. Catharines, where they played with Supergarage and Honeytruck on March 26.

They pleased the all-ages crowd of 235 with songs from their new release, as well as a few older tunes like *7620 - 36th Ave.*

The biggest crowd reaction was for *Letting Time Pass*, which one audience member tried unsuccessfully to get them to play a second time.

New Meanies singer and guitarist Damon Mitchell belts out a tune at Big Buck's on March 26.

Photo by Sharilyn Johnson

Big Boss rocks Toronto battle

By LISA HEYDON
Staff Writer

A Niagara College band has left an imprint on Megacity residents, letting everyone know who's the boss . . . Big Boss.

The winner of Niagara College's Battle of the Bands represented the college at the 1998 Campus New Music Explosion on April 5 at York University in Toronto.

To qualify, Big Boss was selected after competing against 17 bands at the After Hours pub on Feb. 2.

The members of Big Boss are Geoff Collins, 21, guitar, Eric Lepp, 18, guitar, Matt DiFranco, 22, vocals, Josh Case, 20, bass, and Dennis Ferron, 21, drums.

This year's Campus New Music Explosion comprised 15 bands from various Ontario universities and colleges.

Max Weinberg, former drummer for Bruce Springstein, and member of the Max Weinberg 7, featured on Late Night with Conan O'Brien, hosted the event.

Each band played a 15-minute set before an audience and panel of five judges.

The judges were Brian Hetherman, A&R Universal, Bonnie Fedrau, EMI Music, Jeff Craib, SL Feldman and Associates, David Bluskin, Courage Artists and Touring, and Weinberg.

The evening brought together a wide variey of bands with different musical interests. Big Boss's influences range from Faith No More, 311 and Incubus to such 1980s bands as Depeche Mode and Duran Duran.

"The thing that we are most proud of as a unit is our constant desire to change and grow," says DiFranco. "People have actually knocked us for this, people who are limited musically."

The winner of the 1998 Campus New Music Explosion was Tenesse, a band from Carleton University in Ottawa.

As the winner, Tenesse will move on to the COCA National Conference held at Ryerson University June 5 to 10.

Big Boss didn't win the judges' votes, but they had the vote of the audience.

On the judges' comment sheets, Weinberg wrote that Big Boss did an excellent job working up the crowd.

Big Boss hasn't let the outcome of the Campus New Music Explosion dampen its spirits. The band continues to work on a new album and prepare for future shows.

"Our next album is going to be more honest, more to our roots," says Lepp.

Big Boss will be playing with Type O Negative in London, Ont., during June, at Summer Soltice with Blue Rodeo, Jann Arden and Barenaked Ladies, and at Fort Erie's Friendship Festival.

Hot flicks in summertime

By SHARILYN JOHNSON
Staff Writer

Summer is the time for movies, and these are just a few of the big ones.

On May 20 **Godzilla** is accidentally resurrected by nuclear testing and has to be stopped by Matthew Broderick, Jean Reno and Harry Shearer before he stomps all over New York City.

Godzilla will most likely be the top-grossing blockbuster this summer, and the heavy merchandising in the works will add to the success. Expect a lot of Jurassic Park-type effects in this one. With the $100-million budget, the audio track should be in synch with the actors' mouths.

On June 5 Jim Carrey (Liar, Liar) plays his first major dramatic role in **The Truman Show**, directed by Peter Weir (Dead Poet's Society).

Truman Burbank (Carrey) has been the subject of a 24-hour reality-based television show for his entire life, and doesn't know it. His wife, friends, and every resident of his hometown of Seahaven — actually a soundstage — are actors. About 5,000 hidden cameras in and around Truman's house beam his every move to television sets around the world. Once Truman discovers what's going on around him, he has to decide how to deal with it while the planet watches.

JIM CARREY IN
THE TRUMAN SHOW

Early reviews for **The Truman Show** have been positive and praise Carrey's dramatic acting abilities, but the film may disappoint people wanting to see a typical Carrey comedy.

On June 19 the movie version of the hit science fiction television show **The X-Files** hits theatres, starring the world's most popular FBI agents, Mulder and Scully (David Duchovny and Gillian Anderson). The film follows the agents as they investigate the bombing of a Dallas office building.

Why spend money to see a two-hour version of the TV show? Because the film answers some questions raised during the past season of the show and resolves the season-ending cliffhanger. Also in the movie are series regulars Mitch Pileggi, William B. Davis and John Neville.

Stars to hit film fest

Niagara Film Festival expected to draw 50,000

By MELINDA SPURVEY
Staff Writer

Lights, camera, action.

The glitz and glamor of Hollywood are a little closer to home as the first Niagara Film Festival prepares to premiere.

Over 55 screenings in five film categories are slated to be shown over a 10-day period. The categories consist of horror flicks from the '60s and '70s, disaster epics from the '70s, Canadiana, an amateur short video contest and a tribute to screen legend Marilyn Monroe.

Tania Fera, communications assistant for the Niagara Film Festival, says Monroe was chosen as the figurehead for the event because she is an "incredible icon."

"She was chosen because of the attention she draws. For instance, there are numerous Web sites that are still dedicated to Marilyn. She has a following. People love Marilyn."

Fera says Monroe's most famous films, including *Niagara*, will be screened at the Brock Skyline Hotel. "That's exactly where Marilyn stayed during the filming of *Niagara* so there is a connection."

Special guest appearances by some of Marilyn's co-stars and other film celebrities will create a Hollywood atmosphere.

Fera says an invitation has been extended to Academy Award-winning James Cameron, director of the sea epic *Titanic*. "We're hoping that he comes. He's been invited. It looks good, but nothing is definite."

A special presentation of *Titanic* is also planned for the festival. "Hopefully he will come because we want to honor him."

The event begins June 5 and was the idea of John VanKooten, the film festival president, Fera says. "It's his idea. He went with it. It's his baby. He's been nuturing it for a year and still is. He dedicates his life to this festival and its success."

The festival will offer a variety of events with activities, she says. "We're having a Marilyn look-a-like contest in Ontario and some malls in the U.S. The winner will be going to Toronto City Hall and re-enacting the skirt scene from the *Seven Year Itch*."

Fera says the festival hopes for "awesome success" and to also draw 50,000 people to the city. "To be the third largest festival in the world — that's our goal. We won't attain it this year but we hope to attain it eventually."

For more information contact the Niagara Film Festival at (905) 353-9565 or www.niagarafilm festival.com.

Irish love story enchants readers

Binchy creates another great novel

By BARBARA DODDY
Staff Writer

It's a powerful story including everything from love and jealousy to birth and death.

Echoes, by Maeve Binchy, is one of the veteran author's best novels. It begins in the small Irish town of Castlebay and focuses on the lives of its residents.

The two main characters are people you won't soon forget.

Clare O'Brien is the less fortunate but still bright and determined girl from one of the town's small shops. Clare spends her childhood studying in a crowded house so she can one day escape working in her father's store and become an ordinary housewife.

David Power is the well-to-do son of the town's only doctor. He spends his childhood between a boarding school and the large, quiet and lifeless house in Castlebay.

just like small town gossip

He's destined to follow in his father's footsteps but wants more.

Clare and David wish they had each other's life, but their paths never crossed in the sleepy Irish town.

All changes when they meet in Dublin years later. David is at medical school and Clare is studying, courtesy of the scholarship she spent years earning.

From there it's a whirlwind ride through Clare and David's secret lives in Dublin and in Castlebay while on short breaks home.

Binchy creates a page-turner that, once picked up, can't be put down. She weaves the tales of not only Clare and David's life together but also the lives of others in Castlebay. Those lives sometimes end tragically. Whose lives are taken? Those of Clare and David? To find out you'll have to read the book.

I wasn't disappointed, nor will any other book lover be. It's 532 pages that seem just like small-town gossip, but they stay with you much longer and with more power.

Local man writes book for cat owners

Evans' book tells all about cats

By JACKIE FIELD
Staff Writer

Calling all cat lovers!

Have you ever wondered why your cat does certain things?

Yes? This book is for you.

If You Own A Cat . . . You Gotta Have This Book! by Chuck Evans is the ideal book for all cat owners.

It answers a variety of questions about the problems that many cat owners come upon, and is so easy to understand you won't need to read another cat book.

The book is broken down into areas of interest, starting with how to feed a cat.

It may sound simple, but your cat's health is very important and after reading this section it

is clear why cats should only eat certain things.

Also who wants their cat using the whole house as a litter box, or should the cat be an indoor or outdoor pet?

These sound like questions that one would assume to know the answer to, but it's not that easy. There is always more to learn about cats and this book has the answers.

This paperback book is filled with amazing cat information that clearly shows the author knows what he's talking about.

Get the book today, before your cat develops a problem.

The book isn't available in bookstores so head to Pet Valu on Hartzel Road in St. Catharines.

Not only can you buy the book there, but you may be able to see the author as well.

Cat lovers everywhere could give this book a thumbs up!

Novel tells bizarre tale

Circus freaks breeding becomes good plot

By MELINDA JOHNSTON
Staff Writer

Don't wait for the movie to come out because a screen-play for this novel would be next to impossible to adapt.

Geek Love, written by

Katherine Dunn, is a tale of tenderness, terror and suspense that will challenge your notions of what is normal.

The story is told from the third person viewpoint. This third person just happens to be your average, everyday albino, hunchback dwarf named Olympia Binewski.

This incredibly bizarre tale begins with the history of how Al and his wife, Lil Binewski, inherit a nearly bankrupt carnival from his parents.

As a cost measure and out of fear of closure of Binewski Fabulon, Al and Lil decide to breed their own freaks. At Al's discretion Lil consumes large amounts of narcotics during pregnancy to ensure a unique brood of children.

Dunn introduces characters that will haunt you for a lifetime: Arturo, the "Aqua Boy," who starts a nationwide masochistic cult; Electra and Iphigenia, piano-playing Siamese twins; and Fortunato, who is almost abandoned because he is not deformed until Al and Lil discover he is the most valuable freak of all.

Dunn fills 348 pages with her soaring imagination and an unforgettable tale of family devotion that will surely captivate you into reading it over and over again.

Credits of movie provide surprising end

Twisted storyline makes for good movie

By STACEY SCHMITT
Staff Writer

Twisted, sexy and thrilling — that's the new movie *Wild Things*.

Wild Things, directed by John McNaughton (*Henry: Portrait Of A Serial Killer*), stars Matt Dillon, Kevin Bacon, Neve Campbell and Denise Richards.

Wild Things is set in Florida and offers excellent shots of palm trees, sunsets and alligators.

Dillon plays a high school guidance counsellor accused of raping two of his students. Accusing Dillon are Richards and Campbell. Dillon, obviously surprised by the accusation, hires a lawyer, played by Bill Murray. Murray's 20 on-screen minutes are hilarious.

all deliver great acting in their roles

In the court scene, Campbell decides to tell everyone the rape accusation was fake and planned by Richards.

This is when things start to happen.

I can't begin to explain anything for fear of giving away the ending, which is quite surprising.

Every time you think you have *Wild Things* figured out, it twists once again, leaving you wondering what could happen next. If you think *The Usual Suspects* was twisted, it does not even compare to *Wild Things*.

As usual Dillon, Campbell, Murray and Bacon all deliver great acting in their roles.

Going into this movie, patrons were commenting on how much nudity there was supposed to be. Well, there really isn't, so if the nudity factor was holding you back, don't let it.

Wild Things is one thriller you don't want to miss, but make sure to stick around for the credits. There are more surprises.

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Cherone makes the difference

By LEE WHITEHEAD
Staff Writer

Van Halen is back, finally!

The band has released **Van Halen III**, its first CD featuring new music since August 1995.

Much has happened since the release of **Balance**. Lead singer Sammy Hagar was fired and replaced by original lead singer David Lee Roth. A greatest hits CD, **The Best of Van Halen Volume I**, was released. Roth was fired, again, and replaced by former Extreme singer Gary Cherone.

Finally, the band's 13th CD is here.

Longtime Van Halen fans were skeptical about the sound of the band with Cherone taking over the vocals.

Listening to *Fire In The Hole*, the band's fans will breathe a sigh of relief. The song starts with a familiar sound: Eddie Van Halen's guitar riffs, quickly followed by his brother Alex's drumbeats. Michael Anthony joins in with his dependable bass line.

What will surprise most Van Halen fans is Cherone. He explodes into the song with his vocals sounding similar to Roth's.

Van Halen III combines typical Van Halen-sounding tunes with the band's experimental new style.

Without You, the CD's first single, is another song fans will immedi-

ately recognize as the Van Halen style — Eddie's guitar, Alex's drums and Cherone's emotion caught up in the lyrics.

The song defining the album is *Year To The Day*. It exemplifies the talent that makes Van Halen one of the best bands ever.

It begins acoustically with Eddie playing guitar and Cherone singing. The next eight minutes display everything Van Halen has to offer. Eddie shows off his guitar mastery with extended guitar solos, proving he still is the best guitar player in the world.

The drums are typically Alex. He demonstrates perfect control over the double-bass, snare, toms and cymbals as only he can.

Cherone's voice range is extraordinary. Changing tones without a flinch, he sounds like Roth and Hagar rolled into one. Without a doubt, Cherone has more vocal talent than the previous two lead singers of Van Halen.

Van Halen III highlights the talents of every member of the band on every song. It is, artistically, the best CD the band has ever produced.

The reverend heats it up

By CHARLIE ASHBURY
Staff Writer

Reverend Horton Heat serves up another batch of rock-a-billy anthems with the release of its latest album **Space Heater.**

This is a switch from the band's last effort, **It's Martini Time.** Reverend Horton Heat has headed into a more straight-on hard-rock sound and a lot less of the punk/lounge style rock to which fans have become accustomed.

Space Heater has its moments. The songs *Mi Amor* and *Jimbo Song* will have you singing along. The best song is the hard-rocking *For Never More*. This song captures all the essence of this three-piece band from deep in the heart of Texas.

Space Heater also has one of its signature instrumental tracks, *The Pride of San Jacinto*, taking you to the Old West, making you feel as if you're roping cattle with the band.

On the new album, lead singer/guitarist Jim Heath rarely displays his amazing ability to add clever, witty lyrics as he has done in the past, writing songs on topics ranging through eating steak, racing cars and homosexual cowboys.

Heath's guitar playing is as slick as his gel-covered hair. Jim Wallace slaps his bass silly providing some memorable basslines. Drummer Scott Churilla keeps the beat, and the band, together.

One disappointment is the band went away from playing jazzy lounge music, which has always produced some of the best Reverend Horton Heat music. Humor and attitude, which made them original, has disappeared on **Space Heater.**

Space Heater isn't a terrible album, but it's not up to Reverend Horton Heat standards. If you're familiar with the older work, you'll be left feeling ripped off.

I'm giving it six out of 10.

Godheadsilo's triumphant return

By STACEY SCHMITT
Staff Writer

It takes two.

Share The Fantasy is godheadsilo's new CD.

Godheadsilo is a two-piece band from Fargo, N.D. The band consists of Mike Kunka on bass and vocals and Dan Haugh on drums.

These two like to play loud music.

All guitar bands will want to lay down their guitars, fall to their knees and pray to this band.

Kunka's bass, mass array of effects pedals (seven and counting) and amps (five and counting) just goes to show you don't need guitars to rock hard.

This CD, the second release on Sub Pop, continues in the tradition of previous releases with some of the most interesting song titles around. Examples on **Share the Fantasy** are *Bunson Over The Junson, Goin' Commando* and *Home Crap Home.*

The godheadsilo boys pull off a very good cover of Phil Collins' classic *In The Air Tonight*. This is one where you hear what Kunka is saying. All the other songs sound as if they're being beamed down by an angry astronaut.

All this chaos is kept together by the relentless pounding of Haugh's drums. He's going to hurt himself one of these days.

Share The Fantasy is one of the best metal albums of the year. People liking laid-back pop music beware, this is not for you.

Send it straight to the trash

By SEAN COFFEY
Staff Writer

Armand Van Helden's "illustrious" career as a house producer has taken a wrong turn with his recent dance/rap album **Enter The Meat Market.**

I am not a rap or dance fan but I still know what a good beat is and, believe me, this album doesn't have it.

In the biography with this CD, Van Helden said, "Put about six beers, or two E1's, in you. Then listen to it. That's what it's for." Twenty-four beers wouldn't get me moving to this beat.

Perhaps I have missed the point, yet when I listen to this I can't help but be reminded of the soundtrack for a low-budget, late '80s crime drama. The beat never changes, and neither do the lyrics.

It seems as if Van Helden is trying to revive the East Coast beat of days gone by. If indeed it is an attempt at the revival of East Coast rap, I think we should do our best to see it stays on the East Coast.

The lyrics are pathetic, and in some cases — such as the track *Ultrafunkula* — the beat bears a striking resemblance to some other "songs" I have heard.

Sorry, but I don't see any talent here.

It's Wu-approved

By CHARLIE ASHBURY
Staff Writer

Just what the world needs, another Wu-Tang solo project.

Cappadonna brings us the first Wu-Tang Clan solo album of 1998 with the release of **The Pillage**. This is the first full-length album for Cappadonna, and might be the best Wu-Tang solo album since Method Man's Tical, in 1994.

Slang Editorial has a memorable bass line that will have your car stereo pounding

On **The Pillage**, Cappadonna mixes the best elements from both Wu-Tang Clan albums, **Enter the Wu-Tang (36 Chambers)** and **Wu-Tang Forever**. He's got the strange samples from old B-movies crossed with some thumping beats.

The first single, *Slang Editorial*, has a memorable bass line that will have your car stereo pounding. Throw in some of Cappadonna's razor sharp lyrics and you've got a hit. *Dart Throwing* and the title track, *The Pillage*, are a pair of great tracks that will catch your attention.

One thing about **The Pillage** that makes it worth listening to is its originality. Puff Daddy and his crew have been taking old songs and reworking them to fit their style, using very little original thought, so it's refreshing to see that Cappadonna hasn't conformed to this trend.

There are several guest appearances on the album by other Wu-Tang Clan members, such as Ghostface Killah, Method Man and Raekwon. The album is produced by the RZA. These appearances add to the album, but the songs Cappadonna does on his own are just as good, which should make this a successful hip-hop album.

The only flaw **The Pillage** has is that a few of the songs sound similar. This makes the other tunes stick out. If you liked **Wu-Tang Forever,** you'll like **The Pillage**.

I'm giving it seven out of 10.

These 50 eggs have gone rotten

By BARBARA DODDY
Staff Writer

These 50 eggs have gone rotten.

In the biography sheet with this CD, I remember reading this sentence: "These days the listening public seems to be made up of two groups: those who have yet to hear Dan Bern and those who are blown away by him."

I give you Group 3. Those who have heard him and think he needs a bit of psychiatric help. I'm a member of this group.

The 12 songs on Bern's new CD *Fifty Eggs* are a cross between fast and slow mumblings recorded in a studio.

Bern's lyrics are grotesque and revolting

Bern's lyrics are grotesque and revolting. A song about Tiger Wood's genitalia doesn't strike me as interesting. Does it interest you?

Bern's sarcastic and angry and it's reflected in his music. As much as I wanted to find something good about this CD, after listening to it five times, I still couldn't.

I have no doubt Bern may have musical talent. His father is a composer and music teacher. His sister is a professional singer. Maybe singing and writing just aren't his forte.

Singing and writing just aren't his forte

Fifty Eggs isn't worth 50 cents.

College student designs airport's first logo

By AARON BEAUDOIN
Staff Writer

The sky is the limit for a Niagara College student.

Shawn Reimer, 22, of St. Catharines, has designed the winning entry for the Niagara District Airport's first official logo.

Reimer, enrolled in the Computer Applications in Design course, was one of 40 who participated in a contest to design the logo. The course is part of the Art and Design Fundamentals — Graphic Design Production program.

"In keeping with the new image and thrust of the Niagara District Airport, which is to commence with the implementation of its business and marketing plan, what better way to start than with a brand-new logo," said Bill Dickson, chair of public relations at the Niagara District Airport.

The airport has existed without an official logo since 1935.

The contest was launched last fall after Niagara College's John Thompson, Computer Applications in Design course instructor, was put in touch with officials at the Niagara District Airport.

Thompson says students in the program are given one outside project a year.

As part of the presentation on March 31, Reimer, as well as runners-up Sita Edwards, 27, of Welland, and Amy Robertson, 21, of Niagara Falls, received plaques and a certificate for a free flight over the Niagara Region.

NIAGARA DISTRICT AIRPORT

Amy Robertson, 21, Shawn Reimer, 22 and Sita Edwards, 27, display their logos at the Niagara District Airport.
Photo by Aaron Beaudoin

Hair raising experience to raise cash

By MICHAEL EARWICKER
and COREY ZIRALDO
Staff Writers

It's the director's cut.

In an effort to raise funds for a second-year Broadcasting—Radio, Television and Film (BRTF) program's film studies project, a cutting edge campaign was developed.

The BRTF program teamed up with the Career School of Hair Design Inc. of St. Catharines to offer hair cuts in front of the library at the Welland campus on March 18, 19 and 20. Each hair cut cost $5. All proceeds helped offset the cost of four film projects that began production in March.

Hair stylists Eleanor Strickland, 43, of Niagara-on-the-Lake, and Yvonne Sjaarda, 18, of St. Anns are set to graduate from their hairstyling program at the end of May. They said they volunteered their time because it's an "opportunity to gain some experience."

BRTF instructor Bill Boehlen, 36, of Port Robinson, was one of many people who paid to receive a hair cut from the hair stylists. "I wanted to help out the film students, plus I'm cheap, " he said.

Second-year BRTF film student, Fiona Webb, 26, of Thorold, said a large portion of the money is being raised to pay for food costs and the transportation of professional actors from Toronto, as well as extra equipment, such as electric generators. All actors in the films have volunteered their time.

The four 20-minute films being produced are called *Canceled Accounts, Meat and Potatoes, Roller Skate* (a working title) and *Trace*. Each has a budget of $400 to $500.

Webb said her group's film, *Roller Skate*, began production on March 26. "It is about a woman who has a recurring dream which bleeds into her reality," she said. "Our films are no different than any other you see. We even do the budgeting and fund-raising."

All of the films produced have the opportunity to be entered into film festivals as well as TVO's Telefest.

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College coaching review under scrutiny

By RANDY SYER
Staff Writer

In three years he built Niagara College's men's basketball team to national-ranking status.

Now former head coach Randy Conlon, 31, of St. Catharines, finds himself on the outside looking in.

In May 1994, Conlon took over the college's basketball program. Since '94, the college saw Conlon take the men's basketball team from a four-win eight-loss record in his first season to a seven and five playoff run in '96/97.

At the beginning of this season, the anticipation level was high as Conlon went out and recruited talent from such places as Toronto, Sarnia, Hamilton and St. Catharines.

Everything seemed to be running smoothly for Conlon and the basketball team until late October when he handed in his resignation.

"For my own personal reasons, family reasons, I resigned as coach," said Conlon, a graduate of Niagara's Journalism-Print program. "I did that (resigned) on my own terms, knowing that the possibility to coach again may or may not be there."

Conlon said when he handed his resignation to Ray Sarkis, college's the assistant director of varsity athletics, he knew the risk he was taking.

"He (Sarkis) was pretty good about it. I, in no uncertain terms, left with the impression it (coaching) may be there for me or may not, which was fine."

Conlon, who is employed by the college as co-ordinator of liaison, said Sarkis had "assured" him, at the time, that there would be a coaching possibility. "If the opportunity were to arise then, yes, I would think about it," Conlon said.

Sarkis, 41, of Cooks Mills, hired Jeff MacDonald, of Monsignor Clancy High School in Thorold. MacDonald led Niagara's men's basketball team to an eight-win four-loss season and a berth in the Ontario Colleges Athletic Association's (OCAA) tournament.

After straightening out his personal problems, Conlon said he missed coaching and if he had the chance he would like to come back, adding, "I love the game."

Coaches are reviewed at the end of every season.

He said with three weeks left before the end of the season, several players approached him and told him the current coaching staff would be back for the next season.

"I was really upset. I was angry actually because I was assured by Ray that the coaching would be reviewed at the end of the season," Conlon said, "and here we are three weeks prior to the end of the season and it is announced that the coaching staff is decided for next year, so I started to question the scrupples and integrity of Ray and the athletic department."

Asked about the situation, Sarkis said he had no comment.

Mike Conradi, 25, of St. Catharines, who played under Conlon and MacDonald, said after one of Niagara's last home games MacDonald announced to the team he would be back as coach for the 1998/99 season.

Asked about Conlon's request to come back, MacDonald, 37, of Welland, had no comment, but said he was asked to do a job and did the best he could.

"The coaches here are part-time employees of the college," said Brigitte Chiki, the college's director of access and student success. "They're not attached to any contract, they're not part of a union.

"They're part-time employees we hire seasonally," said Chiki. "In most cases if there's a vacancy we put an ad into the paper and we try to recruit the best coach possible."

She said anything said throughout the year "I would suggest it was in the heat of the moment and what they thought the person in front of them needed or wanted to hear."

"It's an informal proccess," said Chiki. "It's a matter of me sitting down with the athletic staff, hearing what the students have to say and making a decision."

She said the decision is made by looking at how the team did, what kind of student interest there was, how the budget is managed within the team.

"I can't get out to every game all the time," said Chiki. "I always read the (*Niagara News*) sports pages to see what the students are saying about their experiences on the team."

Chiki said she reads the players' quotes "very carefully" and gets a "very good sense" whether or not there's a good feeling on the team, adding, "in some way I see myself as an unbiased person."

She said with the facts she has she doesn't see any negativity, "I'm hearing after the fact, all of a sudden, stuff is being said indirectly."

"There was no promise made to anyone when that coach was brought on," said Chiki. "But what happened in the meantime was the team performed well, the students did well, they seemed to enjoy their experiences."

"We need to know more of what's changed (with Conlon). This is a real dilemna. There's no clear answer," said Chiki. "As of today (March 30) no coaching contracts have been offered or signed."

Although, this year's record had one more win than last year, the '96/97 Knights had the same record on the floor. In the team's first game of '97, Niagara defeated Ancaster's Redeemer College 106-63.

However, because the Knights played with an ineligble player, of which Conlon was unaware, the OCAA stripped Niagara of its victory.

At that point, Niagara had one win and fives losses. The team then rolled through the rest of the season by winning six straight games and getting a playoff berth.

Andy Medhurst, 22, of Port Colborne, one of the five players who left the team while MacDonald was coaching, said his reason for leaving was because he was no longer having fun playing the game.

When comparing this year to last season, Conradi said the only differences were in practices because the records at the end of the season were the same.

"Last year, practices might not of been intense all the time," said co-captain Conradi. "I mean we did our running and conditioning but nothing compared to the running we would do this year."

Coaches are reviewed at the end of every season

He said he understands practices are for when players work on the fundamentals of the game, but "it's still a game. It's still basketball and I should have fun when I'm practicing with my friends and teammates. Where, this year practices were no fun.

"I can count on one-hand the number of practices out of the whole year that I enjoyed or didn't leave feeling bitter," said Conradi.

"I was dreading going to practice everyday," said Medhurst. "I was actually dreading going to the games because it was taking time out of my life and I wasn't benefiting from it."

Medhurst said being away from the team "hurt" because of his "love" for the game, adding "the way it's being run now it's just not fun."

This isn't the first time a coach has left for personal reasons.

Conlon said in the first two years he coached, Sudbury's Cambrian College and Etobicoke's Humber College coaches resigned because of personal reasons and returned the next year.

Curlers seek recognition they deserve

Niagara represented in Welland league

By LEE WHITEHEAD
Staff Writer

They don't get the recognition they deserve.

Every week, Niagara College sends a team to the Welland Curling Club to compete in a recreational league.

"My father got me curling at a young age and I've stuck with it ever since," says skip Jason Stelmaschek, 23, of Welland.

He skipped a team featuring lead Sharilyn Johnson, 19, of Winnipeg, second Jacqueline Smith, 23, of Welland, and third Melanie Rodrigue, 20, of Welland, against a team from CC's Dugout in a playoff game on April 9.

Although Stelmaschek's team got stronger as the game went on, they were unable to handle the experience of CC's, losing 13-4 to end their season.

The college's curling program doesn't receive much attention.

"There wasn't that big of a turnout (at the tryouts) so we just made up the teams with what we had," says Stelmaschek. "If you could curl, we'd take you."

Carlos Pena, who played on the men's team that represented the college at the Ontario College Athletic Association (OCAA) championships in Thunder Bay, says he loves curling.

"I joined up in Grade 12. My friend convinced me."

Pena says he doesn't play on the team the college enters in the recreational league because he plays on another team in the same league, but he played in the provincials.

"It was fun," he says. "It was a good experience. Last year I was a spare but this year I got to play. It was totally different."

Kevin Harding, 26, of Welland, skipped the men's team at the OCAA championships.

"It was a great experience, especially for the younger guys who'd never been to a provincial before," says Harding, a second-year student in the college's Journalism-Print program. "We didn't have a really experienced team. The front-end guys really had never curled before so we finished even (won two, lost two). I was fairly happy with the way everybody played."

Harding says the college's athletic department does a good job funding the curling program.

"They covered expenses and hotel rooms and we were outfitted with equipment, so we had no problems with funding at all."

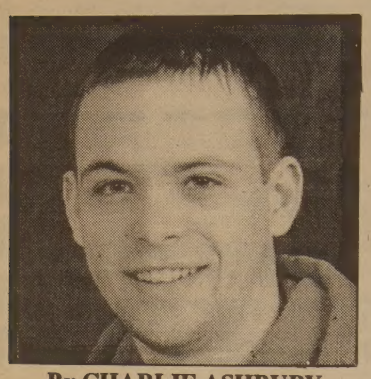
Although the recreational league is a good experience for college curlers, Harding says he would like to see some form of college league come into existence.

"I would like to see it if there was enough interest in it," he says.

"It would be great thing to have a young people's league for the college, even if they combined with Brock University and formed a varsity league. That would be something to look into."

Members of the Niagara College curling team, from left, Sharilyn Johnson, Jacqueline Smith, Jason Stelmaschek and Melanie Rodrigue, ended their season on April 9, losing to CC's Dugout 13-4.
Photo by Lee Whitehead

Bulls, NBA, pro sports need Jordan



By CHARLIE ASHBURY
Staff Writer

Will he stay, or will he go?

As the National Basketball Association (NBA) nears the end of another season, one question is on everyone's mind.

Is this the last year for Chicago Bulls' superstar Michael Jordan?

Jordan has been toying with the idea since the start of the year, but as the season winds down it's becoming more of a reality.

Jordan has let the Chicago management know what has to take place for him to return. He wants Phil Jackson, coach of the Bulls, to be re-signed, as well as teammate Scottie Pippen.

These seem like simple tasks, but Jackson has already said this would be his last year in the Windy City, and Pippen has expressed interest in leaving.

Jordan's team would be left in shambles if he does decide to hang up the shoes. Without Jordan, Pippen and Jackson, the Bulls are left with Toni Kukoc, a player who never reached expectations, Ron Harper, who's not getting any younger, and Steve Kerr, who is a sixth man at best.

All three are fine players, but they have always had the luxury of having opponents double-team Jordan or Pippen, leaving them wide open for shots.

There are several great players, but they don't dominate the way Jordan does

It would be a different story if they had to create their own scoring opportunities. Also, attendance in Chicago will drop dramatically without Jordan, not to mention the decrease in the win column stats.

Other NBA teams would suffer from the departure of Jordan. The past two months have proved this to be true. With all the talk of Jordan retiring at the end of the season, fans are rushing out to catch one last glimpse of the star before he's gone.

Struggling teams like Milwaukee and Toronto sell out their arenas when Chicago comes to town.

If Jordan does leave, who will take over as the league's top player?

There are several great players like Grant Hill, Allen Iverson and Eddie Jones, but they don't dominate or even take over a game the way Jordan does.

The NBA would obviously continue if he left, but the league would be losing its greatest asset and its greatest player.

Jordan is popular throughout the world and has done a great deal for the worldwide success of the sport by competing in the Olympics and other international events.

It would seem as if the NBA had lost its spokesman if he does decide to leave.

If Jordan does retire, the game will lose a great player, and possibly a few fans, but the game will go on.

The next great player will come along soon enough, but until then, if Jordan and the Bulls come rolling into your town, go and take a look at the greatness of Jordan for one last time.

F1 refuses to butt out

By LEE WHITEHEAD
Staff Writer

What do Formula One (F1) drivers Jacques Villeneuve, Michael Schumacher and David Coulthard have in common?

Like every other F1 driver, these three drive for teams sponsored by tobacco companies. Before you condemn them, there's something you should know.

Tobacco advertising has been part of F1 racing for many years. However, certain countries, including Canada, have threatened to ban tobacco company sponsorship of sporting events, prompting the Formula One Association (FIA) to threaten to pull their Grand Prix races from these countries.

Revenue from tobacco ads mean big bucks for F1 racing. To ban advertising from the Canadian Grand Prix in Montreal, for example, would mean millions of dollars lost to the FIA.

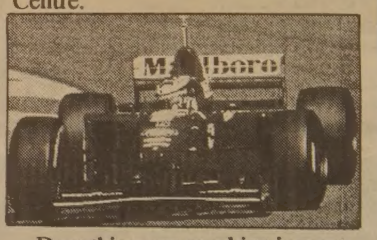
Racing fans won't start smoking just because they see a Marlboro logo

The FIA would avoid this loss by pulling the race from Montreal, an act which would result in millions of dollars lost to the Canadian economy. No race means no fans coming to Montreal to spend their money on hotel rooms, souvenirs and food.

F1 needs tobacco ads.

To ban tobacco advertising would be ludicrous. I don't believe racing fans will feel the need to start smoking just because they see a Marlboro logo on the tail of Schumacher's Ferrari.

Is the advertising of cigarettes really that bad? It's no worse than alcohol advertising. Nobody complains about Molson Breweries sponsoring Hockey Night in Canada, or the Montreal Canadiens playing their games in the Molson Centre.



Does this mean smoking is worse for you than alcohol consumption? Hardly. When was the last time someone was killed as a result of smoking and driving?

Wings primed to repeat

By LEE WHITEHEAD
Staff Writer

Hockey's second season is about to begin.

The Stanley Cup playoffs are scheduled to start next week and, more than likely, there will be a few upsets.

However, when the dust settles, the two-month journey through pro sport's most grueling championship tournament will once again end with the Detroit Red Wings hoisting the Stanley Cup.

The 1998 Red Wings are stronger than last year's team that swept the Philadelphia Flyers in the cup final.

The Red Wings have played the entire season without defenseman Vladimir Konstantinov, who is still recovering from an off-season auto accident. However, the trade-deadline addition of former Maple Leaf Dimitri Mironov should solidify a strong defense corps led by veterans Bob Rouse and Larry Murphy.

Up front, the Red Wings have muscle and offensive production in Brendan Shanahan. "Shanny," the heart and soul of the team, along with Sergei Fedorov and captain Steve Yzerman, should be able to provide the goal scoring Detroit needs to compete with offensive machines Colorado and Dallas.

The biggest question mark the Red Wings have is in goal. Can Chris Osgood provide the solid goaltending Mike Vernon produced in last year's playoffs?

Absolutely. In fact, if Detroit meets Colorado for the third year in a row, watch for a thrilling goaltending duel between Osgood and Avalanche netminder Patrick Roy.

You can bet head coach Scotty Bowman will have his Wings fired up and ready to defend the championship they won a year ago.

Additions should improve Giants

By DAVID OLSEN
Staff Writer

America's favorite pastime is back.

The San Francisco Giants, managed by Dusty Baker, are ready to hit the field and excite the fans.

A repeat of last year's surprise season is the plan, along with a possible trip to the playoffs and the World Series.

Bonds returns to intimidate pitchers with his homerun-hitting-bat

The Giants are hoping right-hander Orel Hershiser, acquired from Cleveland, will give them some solid pitching.

Rob Nen, a right-hander traded from the World Champion Florida Marlins, will be closer, giving the team some experience in the bullpen.

Outfielder Barry Bonds returns to intimidate pitchers in the National League with his home-run-hitting bat. Bonds hit .291 with 40 homers last season. He could improve his numbers if he stays healthy and gets some strong support from fellow sluggers Stan Javier, J.T. Snow, Darryl Hamilton and Jeff Kent.

The Giants' first home game of the season is on Tuesday, April 7, at 3Com Park in San Francisco against the Houston Astros.

This could be the year the San Francisco team lives up to its name and has a "Giant" season.

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Changes in store for LASA program

By CURTIS RAP
Staff Writer

Major events are happening in Niagara College's Law and Security Administration (LASA) program in September.

"There are a lot of changes," said Heather Hodgson, 46, of Burlington, LASA program co-ordinator.

Police Foundations, a new two-year program, will begin in September.

This new program will share a common first year with LASA program students.

The content of the first year is being shifted to include many of the general education topics of psychology, sociology, criminology, and some others, allowing the second year to aim more at the profession the student wishes to pursue.

Second-year Police Foundations will be specific to policing, whereas the law and security program will be aimed at customs, immigration and security.

The course load for the program will change to eight courses a term for LASA and Police Foundations. Students will have to participate in 80 hours of community service, which in the first year includes six Campus Watch shifts.

For Police Foundations, the admission requirements, which are set by the Ontario Ministry of the Solicitor General, will be tougher than the LASA program in the past.

Admission will require the completion of several tests and checks, such as a word comprehension test, criminal records check, a fitness test and a vision and hearing test. The applicant should also have a driver's licence.

For students who wish to specialize in security, the LASA program will include a component on electronic surveillance. This new component will include an introduction to electronics and audio-visual equipment followed by a full course on electronic surveillance, including installing security cameras and alarm systems.

These changes were outlined in a 1992 report by the Ministry of the Solicitor General on police learning. The theory, which is not confirmed by Bob Runciman, the solicitor general, is that a student will complete Police Foundations followed by a provincial exam, and then enter the constable selection process, said Hodgson.

The goal of the Ontario Police College in Aylmer, Ont., will then change to cover more of the practical side of policing as opposed to theory and practical, in order to be more cost effective.

Police Foundations is not mandatory to become a police officer yet, "but we anticipate that was part of the plan that it would be," says Hodgson.

A valid secondary school diploma is all that is necessary to apply to a police force.

However, the reality is police forces pick "the best of the best" with the average age being 28, says Hodgson.

These changes will affect first- and second-year students currently in LASA. For first-year students, the second year has been upgraded to include much of the Police Foundations curriculum, so they would have less to catch up on to get a double diploma.

For first- and second-year students and program graduates, a fast-track program that meets everyone's needs is being looked at, but "it may be cost-prohibitive," says Hodgson. She added that second-year students will have to come back for a third year.

The changes are "for the better," said Hodgson. "In the long run one thing that's happened (is) all of the colleges in Ontario are working together, which is a big change and the curriculum is identical college to college."

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New campus leads Niagara into 21st century

1998-the watershed year

By TIFFANY HERRON
Staff Writer

A year of opportunity and enthusiasm.

The fiscal year of 1998-1999 at Niagara College is going to be filled with many "exciting" changes and expansion on all of its campuses.

For the end of the 1997-1998 acamedic year, College President Dan Patterson says he wishes everyone "well" on their exams and is looking forward to the convocations being held in June. This year there are four being held because of the large numbers of graduates.

"This is a very solemn ceremony but at the same time joyous. We see our students leaving us but we are also pleased to have had the opportunity to serve them and it's a lot of fun."

Niagara College is expanding in many ways. "September will be the beginning of a transitional year for the college as we set up the new Glendale campus," says Patterson.

The construction of the new campus in Niagara-on-the-Lake is on target and on budget, but there is a "concern" with the transition.

There are students from the St. Catharines campus moving to the Welland and Glendale campuses, students from the Welland campus moving to the Glendale campus and students attending for their first year. This creates a "checker board" effect causing a "disruption in the communication flow," says Patterson.

"It is like pieces of a puzzle not quite ready to be centred upon," and this causes anxiety for people.

Patterson says he hopes the Glendale campus opening will be "more organized" than the residence's.

When things become more organized, the college plans on issuing bulletins to the students to inform them of the changes at the college campuses. This will answer all of the questions students may have, and help them understand. The process of the move to make things as smooth as possible.

'September will be the beginning of a transitional year for the college.' — Dan Patterson

The Welland campus will have a new Technical Skills Centre located behind the Mackenzie building. This facility will specialize in serving the Motive Power Service and Repair Service programs.

Patterson says there are plans for the Niagara Regional Police Service to build a police training facility across from the Skills Centre, but that is "still in negotiations."

"We are trying to become a centre of specialization in that field. If the police get on the campus it will create more interest in (students) attending," Patterson says.

Other plans for Niagara College include more emphasis in employment services and resources and explaining to students how to get student aid, which has become more available.

Niagara has become more conscious of the job market and wants to give students more job opportunities. The faculty are working hard to provide the right experience for students.

For many years at Niagara, "everything was on hold," but things have turned around for the college, says Patterson.

The Glendale campus is leading Niagara into the 21st century with its futuristic look, he adds.

The Maid of the Mist Centre in Niagara Falls is looking forward to many changes. There is an upsurge of tourism and hospitality development in the Niagara Region. The campus is strategically located in Niagara Falls where tourism is a key factor, says Patterson.

"There is a huge boom of activites, people are putting pressure on the college for training. In the near future we expect to be open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, all year long to help meet the needs of the industry," says Patterson.

Niagara is a growing college, offering many dreams to many people.

Patterson says he calls 1998 the watershed year.

"We're moving into a whole new era. A refurbished Welland campus, a booming Maid of the Mist Centre and the Glendale campus leading us into the 21st century."

Paying too much, getting too little for campus home

No place like home

By JOSEPH ROWLING
Staff Writer

Some students living at the Niagara College student residence at the Welland campus say they're paying too much and getting too little.

"This is a travesty," says Jonathon Narvey, 23, a second-year Journalism-Print program student from Winnipeg, Man. "I've lived in some pretty bad places, but this is the worst. It lacks any fine quality. It's like living in a jail cell."

Some students living at the residence say they're upset with the rent they have to pay.

"Too much for too little," says Marc LaForest, 20, a first-year Electronics Engineering Technology (Co-op) program student from Blind River, Ont. "There have been interesting people to meet, but we pay way too much."

There are students who say they like it.

"It's a good place to live," says Darrell Lumley, 19, a first-year Electrical/Electronics Engineering Technician student from Highgate, Ont. "The rooms are in good shape and it's not like anyone is going to live here all their life,"

Other students from the residence say they're upset about not getting everything they were expecting.

"I don't think we are getting what we paid for," says Shannon Cliffe, 18, a first-year Legal Assistant (Co-op) program student from Ripley, Ont. "In the pictures that they sent out there was an oven in every room. They are nice rooms and it is a good place to meet people."

"We decided to take the ovens out as a cost item and as a safety item," says Derek Wills, 30, of Welland, residence manager.

"So what we did in order to address all the safety concerns was substitute the cooktop for a microwave. We thought that it would be an adequate substitute."

Wills says rent will be increasing to $3,280 from $3,120 for eight months to cover the costs of maintenance and putting television sets in rooms.

"I lived in a dorm where I had a small cot tucked in the corner of a room that was about half the size of these rooms, for almost as much money," he says, adding this dorm is better than most in the province, including those at universities and colleges.

Where everybody knows his name

By LEE WHITEHEAD
Staff Writer

Any Niagara College student who has attended a Thursday Pub Night has met him.

He is Mika Sillanpaa, and he works at the After Hours pub on the Welland campus.

"I cook, I bus and I take care of security," says Sillanpaa, 28, of Welland. "I make sure the patrons have a fun evening without incidents."

Sillanpaa says getting the job wasn't a problem and he wasn't given special favors. "Just like everyone else, I applied and went to the interviews."

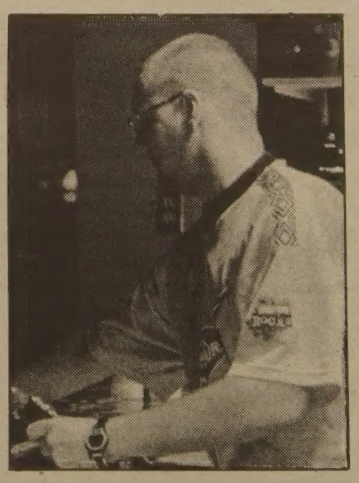
Sillanpaa has travelled a long way to be here. Born in 1969 in Helsinki, Finland, he came to Canada in 1971 and became a Canadian citizen in 1977.

"I am Canadian," he says. "I took my oath to the Queen and to the Canadian flag."

Sillanpaa attended Carleton University in Ottawa and Brock University in St. Catharines before arriving at Niagara. He graduated from Brock with a degree in business.

Enrolled in the General Arts and Science program, Sillanpaa says he is "killing" time. "I'm waiting to get into the Broadcasting — Radio, Television and Film program next year. I want to be involved in the music industry in one way or another producing festivals, shows or working at a university or college doing entertainment there."

Sillanpaa says listening to music



MIKA SILLANPAA

is one of the joys he gets from working at After Hours.

"I get along with my fellow employees. We have a great, great bunch of guys and girls and we have a great time. The bosses are as much of a team player as we all are. They're just the coaches and captains of the team."

He says one of the harder jobs he must handle is breaking up fights.

"The last fight I had to break up kind of dispersed the whole dance floor."

Sillanpaa says he has had to break up a few fights and is occasionally confronted by a drunken patron who threatens to beat him up.

"I just say, 'OK, thank you.'" He says he has never lost his temper or poise when faced with these situations.

Sillanpaa says there isn't anything he dislikes about his job because the positives outweigh the negatives.

"There's nothing there that would make me quit."

He says his favorite aspect of the job is "meeting the people that come (to the pub) and becoming friends with the patrons. I love seeing people have a great time. I get my high off that. I enjoy seeing, on Thursday nights, everybody dancing and having a hoot-hollering time. I can have a good time with the people there."

Dealing with a full deck

By STACEY POW
Staff Writer

Balance is the key to a single mother's success.

Kathlene Brown, 26, of Welland, is a second-year student of the Early Childhood Education (ECE) program at the Welland campus.

"I learned to balance things early by writing out lists of things to do."

Brown applied to three colleges and chose Niagara because "everyone is here, sitters, family, and friends, and I don't have to relocate."

The program she is taking allows graduates to have a career in child care centres, community pre-school programs and other child-care situations.

"I like the program, the only downfall is the lack of jobs."

She praised the teachers in the ECE program. They are one of the "biggest supporters, they help me through any educational problems.

"Without the day care centre I wouldn't be at the college. They give excellent care and support to both me and my five year old."

Brown has worked at the Donut Diner on Niagara Street for three years. When she is not at school or work, Brown says she "enjoys" spending time with her child and friends.

To help her relax, she reads tarot cards, which when spread out, tells a story about the life of the person who shuffled them.

Brown says she is intuitive and got interested in mysticism at a young age. As she got older, she found with tarot cards, she could help others as well as herself.

She says she finds more people have problems with her as a single mother than with her reading tarot cards. "I think everyone should have the right to their ideas."

Brown's goal is to help people, so she would like to take psychology at Brock University in St. Catharines, after graduating from Niagara.

Film students add clarity to documentary

'We're really giving it to the audience. Now they will see what it's all about.' — Lou Iveges

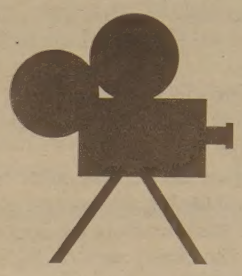
By NOELLE STAPINSKY
Staff Writer

The deadline is coming soon and the seven third-year Broadcasing — Radio, Television and Film (BRTF) program students are pushing themselves to the limit with long hours of editing.

Lou Iveges, 34, of Tilsonburg, director of the Destiny documentary, says, "The documentary has been cut down quite a bit, we're really giving it to the audience, they will now see what it is really all about."

The documentary follows a comedian who has worked his way up the industry's ladder. The main focus of the documentary is Shawn Majumder, 25, of Newfoundland, a talented-young comedian who plays Ed on Brainwash, a YTV-produced weekly special.

Some problems arose during the editing stage, which caused stress for the crew, Iveges says, adding the crew didn't want to cut parts of the documentary that added to the



essence of it, but like all films, parts of it had to be edited to keep the audience's interest and maintain a clear understanding of what is happening.

"We took out 12 people because they were all saying the same thing and it made the flow of the documentary very slow," says Iveges.

Destiny — the working title of the documentary — has finally been changed. It will be called The Faces of Comedy.

"We would have liked to have re-shoot more comedy for the documentary, but being a college production there is a lot frustration in certain things," he says. "This is our first documentary as students and we got to see problems that you can run into.

"Even the old concept of what I wanted was thrown out the window because we didn't have the budget we needed to get everything shot," he says.

The seven students working on the documentary are third-year BRTF students at the college's Welland campus.

"All of the problems escalated when we got into the editing room," says Phil Pattison, 23, of Hamilton.

"To try and change things around and try to make sense of it, it becomes frustrating, really frustrating," says Iveges.

Editing on the documentary will soon be finished and it will be shipped to Toronto for publication.

"The crew has put in an amazing effort to perfect this documentary," said Iveges.

Standing in front of the Toronto skyline is the *Faces of Comedy* crew from the Broadcasting — Radio, Television and Film program. The third-year film students have been working on the documentary since January. **Photo by Noelle Stapinsky**

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Quebec Cold Cuts served on film

By NOELLE STAPINSKY
Staff Writer

In a third-year film editing room, four of eight crew members of the *Cold Cuts* documentary gather for a screening with Elias Petras, a professor in the Broadcasting — Radio, Television and Film (BRTF) program and third-year film co-ordinator.

Tyler Unrau, 21, of St. Catharines, director; Stacy Laliberte, 21, of Niagara Falls, co-director; Dan Drouin-Charter, 22, of Waterloo, producer; Tyler Ward, 23, of Brampton, editor; Andrew Coutts, 21, of Nobleton, editor; John Tennant, 26, of St. Catharines, Michelle Waechter, 22, of Mildmay, camera; and Karlo Locatelli, 22, of Niagara Falls, are the crew of the documentary.

No, this film is not about meat or some delicatessen. It is about the snow sculptures made during Quebec's Winter Carnival this year.

The crew of eight worked at a number of fund-raising activities to raise money for their trip, but only collected $700, which didn't cover much of their expenses.

"We paid about $2,000 out of our pockets, but it was well worth the money," said Coutts.

Prepared for the cold weather or maybe even part of the Quebec ice storm, the students rented a bus, loaded the film equipment and headed for Quebec not knowing exactly what they would find.

"Originally, we wanted to travel the world or maybe just Canada," said Unrau.

"The first day was a learning experience," said Coutts. "Nothing seemed to go right and we, as a team, were not communicating. But we were thrown into it and we were living our documentary. We became a team."

Crew members said they found it interesting to meet the sculptors, who were from throughout the world, and to see the sculptures progress. The crew concentrated on the Singapore, Quebec and Sweden teams for the main focus of their documentary.

The sculptors were outrageously dressed and intent upon their work. The crew was able to communicate, but said the sculptors spoke "very broken" English.

Coutts said the screening was "a success" and after a few suggestions from Petras and a final decision on a name for the documentary, the four students concluded the meeting, while reminiscing about their Quebec experience.

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